

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT
POLICY NOTE
2014-2015**

1. INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

I am living for this people. The Tamil Nadu Government is marching victoriously by planning and implementing various schemes based on the expectations of the people. It is my aim to tirelessly endeavour to make Tamil Nadu as *numero uno* State in the country, to formulate and implement various welfare schemes for women and to fulfil the objective that no one is living below the poverty line.

- **Honourable Chief Minister**

The Government's endeavour is to provide basic amenities and infrastructure facilities, expand livelihood opportunities, improve rural connectivity, provide rural housing and enable a clean and sanitized environment in rural areas, leading to substantial improvement in the quality of life of the people. Under the **dynamic and inspiring leadership of the Honourable Chief Minister**, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department have been continuously striving to realize the above objectives through effective implementation of various State and Central Schemes.

Allocating equal amount to the Village Panchayats with varied number of habitations leads to disparity in development and skewed distribution of assets. Hence, to remove the above lacunae and to have a balanced distribution of funds and creation of assets, "Habitation" has been taken as the basic unit of implementation while formulating "Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme" (THAI Scheme). Tamil Nadu is the first State to implement a scheme with

"Habitation" as the basic unit of development. Under the scheme, the needs of 79,394 habitations in 12,524 Village Panchayats have been identified through a survey and the requirement will be met under THAI Scheme. During the three year period, i.e., from 2011-12 to 2013-14, a total of 59,030 habitations in 6,770 village Panchayats have been provided with the required basic amenities under this scheme.

Another revolutionary initiative is the launching of Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme (CMSPGHS) in the rural housing sector which fulfils the housing needs of the rural poor with a spacious house which is environment friendly. These houses not only provide large living space with amenities but also harvest clean and green energy in the rural areas.

This Government enjoys the distinction of enlarging the scope of participation of more number of families under MGNREGS by taking up more than one work in a Village Panchayat. As per the direction of the Honourable Chief

Minister and in fulfilling the demands of the farmers, formation of Farm Ponds in the individual lands belonging to SC/ST, Small and Marginal Farmers have been taken up under Land Development Activities. Special activities were taken up for the benefit of disabled persons, and during 2012-13 and 2013-14 about 72.30 lakh persondays have been generated by Disabled persons and Rs.107.01 crore have been disbursed as wages. Further, various afforestation activities in common/ Government lands and in coastal villages have been undertaken in rural areas. During 2012-13, in order to mitigate drought, the number of days of employment was increased from 100 to 150 days. About 12.73 lakh households were provided employment for more than 100 days and these households received an additional wage of Rs. 271 crores. The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and Environment and Forest Department jointly undertook Plantation activities. Similarly in the lands of interested farmers, farm ponds have been developed and stocked with fingerlings by the Fisheries Department.

Tamil Nadu, under the guidance of our Honourable Chief Minister, excelled in the performance of MGNREGS at national level in generation of mandays, expenditure on wages, participation of women and the average number of days of employment provided per family. **In terms of provision of employment per household, Tamil Nadu topped the Nation during 2013-14 with 59 persondays, which is above the National average of 47 persondays per household. This was highlighted in the Economic survey report placed in the Parliament on 10.07.2014.**

Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country which has bagged the "Best Performing State Award" in the category of "Social Inclusion", initiated by the Government of India for best performance during the year 2012-13. Further, under the category of Substantial Enhancement of Employment Generation in a Plantation Economy, The Nilgiris District has also received the Best Performing Award, and Thanikottagam Village Panchayat of Vedaranyam Block of

Nagapattinam District has been selected as one of the Best Panchayats in MGNREGS implementation out of 11 Village Panchayats at the National Level.

Rural Connectivity has significant potential for the socio - economic development of the area. This Government has taken various initiatives for upgradation of Non-BT roads into BT roads, strengthening of roads damaged due to floods, construction of Bridges and thus ensured access to remote areas.

The Honourable Chief Minister has pioneered the sanitation revolution in the State through various initiatives like Integrated Women Sanitary Complexes, Clean Village Campaign, additional State share for construction of Individual Household Toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, construction of Integrated Men Sanitary Complexes, etc. A State level massive awareness campaign aimed at attitudinal change and to promote usage of toilets was launched last year. The Government will further intensify its efforts to improve the household sanitation coverage with the active

involvement of all the stakeholders so as to achieve open defecation free Tamil Nadu by 2015.

The Women SHG movement in the State was taken to new heights during last year with the sanctioning of Rs.6035.56 crore bank credit. The empowerment of women was given further filip through launching of new programmes, awards, capacity building initiatives and marketing initiatives for livelihood promotion. Through participatory methods very poor, poor and vulnerable families have been identified in the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM) Phase I & II Blocks so as to ensure inclusive growth through social mobilisation, institution building and financial and non financial services to the poor.

The Village Panchayat and the institutions of poor such as Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC), Social Audit Committee (SAC) and Panchayat Level Federation (PLF) have been effectively converged to provide transparent and effective

governance for poverty reduction initiatives at field level. As a pioneering initiative, each VPRC has been sanctioned Rs.10 lakh as community investment fund to undertake capacity building training and support the very poor and vulnerable families for livelihood activities. Effective steps have also been taken to provide employment to rural youth in the organized sector by providing them the necessary skill through reputed skill training institutions.

Government of Tamil Nadu's pioneering poverty reduction initiative through the World Bank funded Pudhu Vaazhvu Project works through a multi-dimensional poverty mitigation approach that focuses on building institutions of the poor and very poor, building their capacity, leveraging resources through commercial banks, building livelihoods and decreasing the risks faced by poor households by ensuring social safety nets and entitlements. These activities are undertaken through Community Based Organizations (CBOs) such as VPRCs, PLFs, SHGs, CLGs, CLFs and Magamais.

Pudhu Vaazhvu Project is focused in reducing poverty by enabling the poor households to have access to adequate quantum of credit, gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment, strengthening livelihood initiatives, resulting in profound improvement in the overall standards of life of the poor household on a sustainable basis through strong Community based grassroots institutions.

Immediately after the Tsunami of 2004, the Government of Tamil Nadu undertook many relief and rehabilitation programmes. As a long term solution, it was decided to provide alternate and sustainable livelihoods to the affected people in the coastal areas, by implementing the post Tsunami sustainable livelihood programme with the assistance of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The programme, with a multi pronged approach, has addressed crucial requirements of the coastal population. With the establishment of community based

organisations like Cluster Resource centres, Strengthening of Panchayat level federations, Capacity building for Financial Inclusion, Self-employment and Disaster management the programme has largely contributed towards providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to the affected coastal community.

As envisioned by our **unmatched Honourable Chief Minister**, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will continue to fulfill its mission of improving the quality of life of the people of Tamil Nadu by providing essential infrastructure and livelihood opportunities.

2. PANCHAYAT RAJ

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Tamil Nadu has strong roots in the evolutionary process of Local Self Governance. The Uthiramerur inscriptions in Kancheepuram District bears testimony to the existence of Village Councils during the Chola Empire. The elections to these councils were conducted with well laid 'qualification' and 'disqualification' norms for contesting through a secret ballot called '*Kuda Olai Murai*'. Eminent historians point out with astonishment that the Village Councils functioned as independent economic and administrative entities, true to the spirit of present day institutions of Local Self Governments.

In the post-independence era, Article 40 in Part-IV of the Constitution of India provides for the organization and endowment of powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats. The Balwantrai Mehta Committee appointed by Government of India, recommended for the establishment of democratic decentralization which finally came to be known as Panchayat Raj.

The Government of Madras enacted Madras Panchayats Act, 1958 and Madras District Development Council Act, 1958 with the following major features:

- a. A two-tier system of Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions.
- b. Creation of Panchayat Unions co-terminus with the Community Development Blocks.
- c. Village Panchayat Presidents to become ex-officio members of the Panchayat Union Councils with the Chairperson of the Panchayat Union Council directly/indirectly elected.
- d. Entrusting the Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats with a large number of developmental and welfare functions.
- e. Abolition of District Boards.
- f. Creation of District Development Council as an advisory body.

2.1. Constitutional (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992

The 73rd amendment of the constitution was enacted in 1992 and came into effect from April 1993. Article 243G of the Constitution

provides for the scope of devolution of powers and functions to the Panchayat Raj Institutions. 29 items were specifically listed out in the XI Schedule of the Constitution and 74th Amendment provided for formation of District Planning Committees. Accordingly, the Government of Tamil Nadu enacted Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994) which came into force on 22.4.1994. The 1994 Act brought in a number of changes in the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Raj structure as detailed below:

- i. Introduction of a three tier system- at the Village, Intermediate (Block) and District level.
- ii. Mandatory conduct of Local Body elections every five years and conduct of elections before the expiry of the duration of the Local Body or before the expiry of a period of 6 months from the date of its dissolution.
- iii. Introduction of reservation of seats (i.e. ward members) and offices (i.e. Chairpersons/ Presidents) for Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes in proportion

- to their population in every Local Body with provision for rotation of the reserved seats and offices.
- iv. Introduction of reservation of one-third of total number of seats and offices for women with provision for rotation.
 - v. Constitution of a State Election Commission (SEC) as an independent body to conduct elections to both rural and urban Local Bodies regularly.
 - vi. Establishment of a quinquennial State Finance Commission (SFC) to recommend devolution of resources from the State Government to the rural and urban Local Bodies.
 - vii. Constitution of a District Planning Committee to consolidate the plans prepared by the rural and urban Local Bodies in the District with a view to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the District.
 - viii. Introduction of the concept of 'Grama Sabha' comprising all registered voters in a Village Panchayat.

2.2. Grama Sabha

The Grama Sabha is the grass root level democratic institution in each Village Panchayat. A vibrant Grama Sabha is essential for the effective functioning of Village Panchayats by promoting transparency and accountability in administration, enhancing public participation in the planning and implementation of schemes and in the choice of beneficiaries, and paving the way for social audit. Grama Sabha shall statutorily be conducted in such a way that the intervening period between two Grama Sabhas shall not exceed a period of 6 months. The Government have ordered for the conduct of Grama Sabha meetings, a minimum of four times a year i.e. on 26th January, 1st May, 15th August and 2nd October. Minimum quorum for the Grama Sabha based on the population of Village Panchayats has been prescribed by the Government as below:

Table 2.1
Quorum for Grama Sabha

Sl. No.	Population of Village Panchayat	Quorum for the meeting
1	Up to 500	50
2	501-3,000	100
3	3,001-10,000	200
4	Above 10,000	300

Recording of Grama Sabha attendance and proceedings through proper registers and keeping photographic record have been made mandatory for the conduct of Grama Sabhas.

The Grama Sabha performs the following functions:

1. Approves the Village Development Plan.
2. Approves the Village Panchayat Budget.
3. Approves the Audit Report.
4. Reviews the progress of scheme implementation.
5. Approves the list of beneficiaries, intended to be benefitted under various schemes.

6. Promotes communal and social harmony among various groups of people.

i) Village Development Plan

As per Section of 240 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, every Village Panchayat shall prepare a development plan for the Village Panchayat every year and submit it to the Panchayat Union Council. Every Panchayat Union Council shall prepare every year a development plan for the Panchayat Union after including the development plans of the Village Panchayats and submit it to the District Panchayat. Every District Panchayat shall prepare a development plan for the district after including the development plans of the Panchayat Union Councils and submit it to the District Planning Committee constituted under Section 241. The District Planning Committee will consolidate both the rural and urban plans and prepare a Development Plan for the District. The Grama Sabha is empowered to approve the Village Development Plan prepared by the Village Panchayat.

ii) Village Panchayat Budget

As per section 192(1) of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994, the Executive Authority of the Village Panchayat is empowered to frame a budget each year showing the probable receipts and expenditure during the following year. The Grama Sabha is empowered to approve the Budget and the designated Grama Sabha for approval of Budget is January 26 every year as per G.O.Ms.No.245, Rural Development (C1) Department, dated: 19.11.1998.

As Village level Planning and budgeting are essential financial tool for efficient resource planning, this Government will take steps to build the capacity of elected representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions and the functionaries through training in the year 2014-15.

2.2.1. Mahalir Sabha

Tamil Nadu has a glorious tradition of recognizing the importance of empowering Women. This Government is taking pioneering steps for the empowerment of Women and

Children. Accordingly, the State Government have decided to conduct Mahalir Sabha exclusively for women in all the Village Panchayats under the Chairmanship of Village Panchayat President to discuss various issues such as Women and Child Health, Female Education, Sanitation, Anganwadi centres, Self Help Groups, Child Sex Ratio, Women and Child Welfare.

The first Mahalir Sabha was conducted on 12.1.2014 in all the Village Panchayats with the participation from all the related Departments at Panchayat level. The issues related to Women and Children were discussed in detail with the active participation from the rural Women. The proceedings of the Mahalir Sabha were placed in the regular Grama Sabha held on 26th January, 2014. This Government has decided to conduct Mahalir Sabhas every year in all the 12,524 Village Panchayats.

2.3. State Election Commission

The Tamil Nadu State Election Commission was set up as an independent and autonomous constitutional authority in 1994 in order to strengthen the process of

decentralization and democracy. The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the Village Panchayats, Panchayat Union Councils and District Panchayats are vested with the Tamil Nadu State Election Commission, headed by the State Election Commissioner.

The Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner and other administrative staff are appointed as per the sub-section (3) of Section 239 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. The State Election Commissioner shall hold office for a term of 2 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for two successive terms provided no person shall hold the office of Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner for more than 6 years in aggregate. Further, a person appointed as Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner shall retire from office if he completes the age of sixty-five years during the term of his office. The conditions of service and the tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as Governor may by rules determine. The State Election

Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of High Court and the conditions of service shall not be varied to the disadvantage of his appointment.

2.4. Conduct of Local Body Elections

In Tamil Nadu, after enactment of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act in April, 1994, the first ordinary elections were held to all the three tiers of Rural Local Bodies in October, 1996. The second ordinary elections to the Local Bodies were conducted in October, 2001 and the third such elections were conducted in October, 2006. The fourth elections to the Local Bodies were successfully conducted in October, 2011.

Elections to the seats (i.e. ward members) and offices (i.e. heads) of District Panchayats and Panchayat Unions were held on party basis. Whereas, the elections to the seats and offices of Village Panchayats were held on non-party basis. The following table details the number of seats and offices in the three tiers of Panchayats for which elections

were held during October and November, 2011.

Table 2.2
Number of Seats & Offices in the
three tier PRIs

1.	Village Panchayat Wards	99,333
2.	Panchayat Union Wards	6,471
3.	District Panchayat Wards	655
4.	Village Panchayat Presidents	12,524
5.	Panchayat Union Chairpersons	385
6.	District Panchayat Chairpersons	31
Total		1,19,399

2.5. Reservation of Seats and Offices and Rotation

Seats shall be reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in every Panchayat and the number of seats reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Panchayat as the population of Scheduled Castes in that Panchayat area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that Panchayat area bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat according to Article 243 D of the

Constitution of India. It is also mandated that not less than 1/3rd of the total number of seats reserved as above, shall be reserved for women belonging to SCs/STs. Also, not less than 1/3rd (including the number of seats reserved for women of SCs/STs) of the total number of seats shall be reserved for women. The State may legislate laws on the reservation of offices of Chairperson and these provisions have been covered in Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 in Sections 11, 20, 32 and 57, further supplemented by Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Reservation of Seats and Rotation of Reserved Seats) Rules, 1995.

Table 2.3
Reservation of Offices and Seats for Women, SCs and STs for Local Body Elections, 2011

SI No.	Category of Reservation	Total No. of office/ seats	Reserved for Women		Reserved for SCs (General & Women)		Reserved for STs (General & Women)	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	District Panchayat Chairpersons	31	11	35%	7	24%	0	0%
2.	Panchayat Union Council Chair persons	385	140	36%	87	23%	4	1%
3.	Village Panchayat Presidents	12,524	4,289	34%	3,136	25%	156	1%
4.	District Panchayat Ward Members	655	228	35%	154	24%	8	1%
5.	Panchayat Union Ward Members	6,471	2,286	35%	1,526	24%	64	1%
6.	Village Panchayat Ward Members	99,333	33,121	33%	25,360	26%	1039	1%

2.6. Panchayat wise population Data as per 2011 Census

The Director of Census Operations, Government of India has completed the 2011 Primary Census abstract and published the population data at the lowest administrative level i.e., Revenue Village level. The Village Panchayat wise population details required to be compiled separately for which joint effort has been taken by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and the Directorate of Census Operations. Accordingly, all the Assistant Directors (Panchayats) were instructed to complete 100% Panchayat wise reconciliation of 2011 census Enumeration Blocks. The reconciliation exercise was done at the Panchayat level and the verified data were sent to the Directorate of Census. The Director of Census Operations has validated the data and published Village Panchayat wise rural population details as per census 2011 for all the 12,524 Village Panchayats in 31 Districts. The data contains total population of Village Panchayat, SC/ST and Women. The 2011 Census population data has been uploaded in

www.tnrd.gov.in website through NIC, Chennai. The Village Panchayats have been categorized on the basis of population as detailed below:

Table 2.4

Classification of Village Panchayats on the basis of Population as per 2011 census

Sl. No.	Population	No. of Village Panchayats
1	500 and below	46
2	501-1,000	833
3	1,001-3,000	6,821
4	3,001-5,000	2,781
5	5,001-10,000	1,753
6	Above 10,000	290
Total		12,524

The District wise details of total rural population with the breakup of SC/ST and women are given below:

Table 2.5
District wise Rural Population Details

Sl. No.	District	Rural Population	SC	ST	Women
1	Kancheepuram	18,61,789	6,24,458	29,706	9,24,124
2	Thiruvallur	15,85,280	5,04,115	37,708	7,90,170
3	Cuddalore	18,00,133	6,25,788	10,082	8,91,507
4	Viluppuram	29,12,960	9,19,308	71,289	14,45,062
5	Vellore	24,82,556	6,05,248	65,230	12,41,612
6	Tiruvannamalai	20,39,049	5,02,044	87,096	10,14,486
7	Salem	19,57,105	3,54,545	1,12,334	9,45,014
8	Namakkal	10,87,895	2,48,100	55,417	5,37,918
9	Dharmapuri	12,90,530	2,13,538	60,609	6,24,646
10	Krishnagiri	14,65,743	2,20,945	20,980	7,17,175
11	Erode	11,30,722	2,16,689	19,084	5,59,797
12	Tiruppur	11,39,466	2,63,539	1,947	5,68,772
13	Coimbatore	10,21,359	2,13,492	19,565	5,10,409
14	The Nilgiris	3,10,591	91,446	22,767	1,59,447
15	Thanjavur	16,67,809	3,84,291	1,465	8,46,926
16	Nagapattinam	12,61,288	4,60,876	2,214	6,37,194
17	Thiruvarur	10,06,482	3,88,740	939	5,06,528
18	Tiruchirappalli	14,71,945	3,05,109	14,519	7,39,563
19	Karur	6,68,360	1,59,718	201	3,36,684
20	Perambalur	4,68,017	1,50,504	2,136	2,34,113
21	Ariyalur	6,71,100	1,63,770	9,946	3,37,847
22	Pudukkottai	13,41,111	2,51,552	845	6,75,896
23	Madurai	13,00,481	2,72,494	4,896	6,44,431
24	Theni	5,75,394	1,43,589	1,377	2,84,527
25	Dindigul	14,57,412	3,34,064	4,580	7,25,917
26	Ramanathapuram	10,09,270	2,13,583	526	5,01,016
27	Virudhunagar	12,86,543	3,15,796	1,197	6,44,603
28	Sivaganga	9,52,610	1,88,454	518	4,77,215
29	Tirunelveli	16,45,509	3,58,487	4,099	8,32,916
30	Thoothukkudi	9,71,273	2,48,752	1,921	4,92,268
31	Kanniyakumari	6,46,441	26,546	3,893	3,25,257
Total		404,86,223	99,69,580	6,69,086	201,73,040

2.7. Panchayat wise Area Details

The Fourth State Finance Commission has recommended to release the Devolution Grant to the Village Panchayats based on 2011 Census total population, SC/ST population and the area of Village Panchayat. The State Government has accepted the recommendations of the Fourth State Finance Commission and issued orders accordingly for release of Devolution Grant to the Village Panchayats. The District Collectors have reported that the total rural area is 1,04,149.61 sq.kms. Accordingly, Devolution Grant has been released to the Village Panchayats for the year 2013-14 taking into account the area of Village Panchayats also. District wise area details are as below:

Table 2.6

District wise Area of Village Panchayats

Sl. No	District	No. of Village Panchayats	Area (in Sq. km)
1	Kancheepuram	633	3851.445
2	Thiruvallur	526	2859.840
3	Cuddalore	683	2942.240
4	Viluppuram	1,099	6509.430
5	Vellore	743	4022.300
6	Tiruvannamalai	860	4826.265
7	Salem	385	4561.410
8	Namakkal	322	3119.430
9	Dharmapuri	251	4407.430
10	Krishnagiri	333	4965.730
11	Erode	225	2626.990
12	Tiruppur	265	4545.500
13	Coimbatore	228	2534.241
14	The Nilgiris	35	1170.390
15	Thanjavur	589	3657.669
16	Nagapattinam	434	2400.310
17	Thiruvarur	430	2322.690
18	Tiruchirappalli	404	4028.000
19	Karur	157	2656.250
20	Perambalur	121	1609.540
21	Ariyalur	201	1710.170
22	Pudukkottai	497	4433.780
23	Madurai	420	3183.180
24	Theni	130	1159.890
25	Dindigul	306	4401.343
26	Ramanathapuram	429	4116.190
27	Virudhunagar	450	3282.080
28	Sivaganga	445	3075.900
29	Tirunelveli	425	4283.060
30	Thoothukkudi	403	4260.780
31	Kanniyakumari	95	626.140
	Total	12,524	104149.613

2.8. State Finance Commission

The State Finance Commissions have been formed in Tamil Nadu regularly once in 5 years as mandated by 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India and section 198 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994. Major responsibilities of the State Finance Commission are as below:

1. Distribution of the net proceeds of taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the Government, between the State and the Panchayats.
2. Determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees, which may be assigned to the Panchayats.
3. Grants to the Panchayats from the consolidated fund of the State.
4. Measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats.

The First State Finance Commission was constituted in 1994 and gave recommendations for the award period of five years from 1997-98 to 2001-02. The Second State Finance

Commission award period was five years from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 8% of the State's own tax revenue was recommended as Devolution Grant.

The Third State Finance Commission award period was five years from 2007-08 to 2011-12. The Government had increased the devolution grant from 8% to 10% of the State's own Tax Revenue in phases. The devolution grant was shared between the rural and urban Local Bodies in the ratio of 58:42. The 58% of devolution grant to rural Local Bodies was distributed among the Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats in the State in the ratio of 60:32:8 for the award period.

2.8.1. Fourth State Finance Commission

The Fourth State Finance Commission constituted by the State Government has given its report with the recommendations in the month of September, 2011 for the award period from 2012-17. The Government have accepted the recommendations of 4th State Finance Commission. Accordingly, action taken report on the recommendations of the Fourth

State Finance Commission was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 14th May, 2013. The following are the major recommendations for which orders are issued by the Government.

- a) 10% of State's own Tax Revenue will be devolved to rural and urban Local Bodies.
- b) Devolution grant will be shared in the ratio of 58:42 between rural and urban Local Bodies.
- c) The rural grant is distributed among Village Panchayats, Block Panchayats and District Panchayats in the ratio of 60:32:8.
- d) In respect of Village Panchayats, funds are released based on total population, SC/ST Population as per 2011 census and the area of Village Panchayats in the ratio of 60:20:20. In respect of Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats, the funds are released 100% as per 2011 census population.
- e) Incentives will be given to the Village Panchayats which have 100%

assessment of House Tax, 100% collection and periodical revision.

- f) Minimum Grant of Rs.5 lakh to each Village Panchayat per year from the year 2013-14.
- g) Minimum Grant of Rs.30 lakh per year to Panchayat Unions.
- h) Rs.150 crore for Solid and Liquid Waste Management in rural areas.

The quantum of increase in Devolution Grant to rural Local Bodies from 2011-12 to 2013-14 is given in the following Table.

Table 2.7
Devolution Grant to Rural Local Bodies
(Rs. in crore)

Year	SFC Grant	Increase over previous year	
		Amount	% of increase
2011-12	3,332.47	517.59	18%
2012-13	4,068.13	735.66	22%
2013-14	4,687.70	619.57	15%

2.9. Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund 2013-14

The State Government had ordered that 10% of the devolution to rural local bodies shall be deducted from the share of Village Panchayats and allocated towards Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund (IGFF) for Village Panchayats and it shall be utilized on project/ scheme basis only. Out of this, 50% of the fund shall be allocated towards Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme (THAI) and from the remaining 50% of the fund, a part of the amount shall be retained by the Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj for providing basic amenities in the Districts and the balance shall be allocated to the Districts based on population.

During the District Collectors' conference held on 17th and 18th December, 2012, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that the Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund to be released to the District Collectors will be increased to Rs. 5 crore from the year 2013-14. The Government have issued orders stating that the allocation of Rs. 5 crore can be shared as

Rs.3 crore from rural Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund and Rs. 2 crore from urban Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund. Accordingly, funds under IGFF has been allocated as detailed below:

Table 2.8
Allocation of Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund
(Rs. in crore)

1	10% Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund on the Village Panchayats allocation	488.769
2	50% amount earmarked for THAI Scheme	244.385
3	Balance (1-2)	244.384
4	Amount allocated to District Collectors at the rate of Rs.3 crore per District	93.000
5	Balance (3-4)	151.384
6	75% is allocated to the District Collectors based on population to provide basic amenities in rural areas	113.539
7	Balance 25% is retained by the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj for providing basic amenities in rural areas.	37.845

2.9.1. Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund – District Collectors’ Allocation:

A sum of Rs.206 crore has been sanctioned to the District Collectors as Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund for the year 2013-14. It has also been stated in the guidelines that priority should be given for the works as detailed below:

- a) Priority to the THAI habitations where there are gaps in provision of basic amenities such as water supply, street lights, roads, burial grounds, path way to burial grounds etc. The SC/ST habitations should be given more priority while considering THAI Villages.
- b) Priority to those Village Panchayats who are doing good work in making their Panchayat open defecation free by 2015.
- c) Settlement of long pending current consumption charges to TANGEDCO and water charges to TWAD Board.
- d) Priority for upgradation of Earthen and Gravel roads to BT standard, since the Government has declared to upgrade all the non-BT roads to BT standard.

- e) Permanent repair of public buildings as one time affair.

Accordingly, the District Collectors have taken up 3,852 works as detailed below:

Table 2.9

Category wise works taken up under IGFF

Sl. No.	Category	No. of works taken up	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	Anganwadi Centres	138	7.28
2	Bridges / Culverts	137	13.89
3	BT Roads	447	54.91
4	Buildings	85	8.86
5	CC Roads	390	16.17
6	Drainages	242	9.01
7	Water Supply Works	2035	56.15
8	Others	378	13.63
9	Payment to TANGEDCO		7.78
10	Payment to TWAD Board		0.82
	Total	3852	188.50

2.9.2. Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund vested with Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

The funds vested with the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj are utilized for provision / improvement of basic infrastructure in rural areas. Accordingly, from 2011-12 to 2013-14, 358 works were taken up at an estimate cost of Rs.63.78 crore.

Table 2.10

Category-wise details of works taken up under IGFF vested with Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (Rs. in crore)

Sl. No	Category	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	Roads	35	8.11	58	11.55	59	15.19
2	Bridges	0	0	3	0.89	12	14.91
3	Other infrastructure	12	0.51	95	5.98	84	6.64
	Total	47	8.62	156	18.42	155	36.74

2.10. Central Finance Commission Grant General Basic Grant

The Government of India has allocated a sum of Rs. 2016.30 crore to rural Local Bodies as 13th Central Finance Commission Basic Grant for the 5 year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15. The details of funds received as General Basic Grant for the period from 2010-11 to 2013-14 are as below:

Table 2.11

Year wise General Basic Grant

Year	Amount sanctioned and released to Village Panchayats (Rs. in crore)
2010-11	287.10
2011-12	352.62
2012-13	408.83
2013-14	471.65
Total	1520.20

All the basic grants have been distributed to the Village Panchayats on the basis of population to perform their basic functions such as operation and maintenance

of water supply, street lights and sanitation, payment of current consumption charges to TANGEDCO and water charges to TWAD Board.

2.11. Pooled Assigned Revenue

The assigned revenues due to the rural Local Bodies from the proceeds of surcharge on stamp duty and entertainment tax are being pooled at the State level and apportioning the same to the Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. During the year 2010-11, only one-third of the total revenue was assigned to the rural Local Bodies from out of the amount pooled in respect of rural Local Bodies at state level and the balance two-third was credited to the "Fund for Priority Schemes in Rural areas". Whereas, during the years 2011-12 and 2012-13, this allocation was revised by earmarking two-third of the total revenue to the rural Local Bodies and the balance one-third allocation to the "Fund for Priority Schemes" for implementing specific development schemes in the rural areas and for "Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme (THAI)". Accordingly, the Government have sanctioned

Rs.939.67 crore as Pooled Assigned Revenue for the year 2013-14 as below:

- i) The two-third amount Rs.626.45 crore has been apportioned to the Village Panchayats and the Panchayat Unions in the ratio of 67:33 based on rural population as per 2011 census i.e. Rs.419.72 crore for Village Panchayats and Rs.206.72 crore for the Panchayat Unions respectively.
- ii) The balance one-third amount Rs. 313.22 crore has been earmarked for 'Fund for the Priority Schemes in Rural Areas' for implementing specific development schemes in the rural areas and for Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme (THAI) in the ratio of 50:50.

2.11.1. Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue

The Committee under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is empowered to approve the works to be taken under the Scheme Component of Pooled

Assigned Revenue. Major works such as construction of Panchayat Union Office Buildings, Village Panchayat Office Buildings, major bridges, cause ways, link roads, bus stands etc are taken up under this component. Accordingly, from 2011-12 to 2013-14, a total of 1,456 works have been taken up at an estimate cost of Rs.421.69 crore, as detailed below:

Table 2.12
Category-wise details of works taken up
(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No	Category of works	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
		Taken up	Amount	Taken up	Amount	Taken up	Amount
1	Panchayat Union office Buildings	20	31.87	25	43.98	25	51.37
2	Panchayat Office Buildings	55	4.01	182	14.83	200	20.00
3	Bus stand	0	0	0	0	18	26.76
4	Roads	88	31.74	188	36.36	143	60.11
5	Bridges	29	32.37	12	18.60	33	29.73
6	Other infrastructure works	4	0.50	127	4.16	307	15.30
Total		196	100.49	534	117.93	726	203.27

The Scheme component of Pooled Assigned Revenue also provides for purchase of vehicles to the representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions and the officers of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. Accordingly, 62 vehicles were purchased at the cost of Rs.3.17 crore, in lieu of condemned vehicles to the Block Development Officers, Assistant Directors, Assistant Executive Engineers and Executive Engineers of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in the year 2011-12 and 24 vehicles have been purchased at the cost of Rs.1.27 crore from the Scheme component of Pooled Assigned Revenue in the year 2012-13. Similarly, 7 vehicles have been purchased at the cost of Rs.0.39 crore from the Scheme component of Pooled Assigned Revenue in the year 2013-14.

2.12. Village Panchayat

There are 12,524 Village Panchayats covering 79,394 habitations in the State spread across in 31 Districts. The Village Panchayat is constituted for each Village Panchayat consisting of such number of elected members, with effect from such date as may be specified

in the notification of the Inspector of Panchayats. Every Village Panchayat unless sooner dissolved shall continue for 5 years from the date appointed for its first meeting after each ordinary election. However, Special Officers may be appointed to exercise their powers and discharge the functions of the Village Panchayats in certain circumstances.

The Village Panchayat President is the Executive Authority of the Village Panchayat. The Village Panchayat shall constitute the following Committees:

1. Appointment Committee
2. Development Committee
3. Agriculture and Water Shed Committee
4. Works Committee
5. Education Committee

2.12.1. Statutory Functions

Section 110 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, mandates that it shall be the duty of the Village Panchayat to carry out the requirements of the Village Panchayat in the following matters:

- i. Construction, repair and maintenance of all village roads (other than those classified as Highways and Panchayat Union roads), all bridges, culverts and cause-ways.
- ii. Street lights in public places.
- iii. Construction of drains and disposal of drainage.
- iv. Cleaning of streets and improvement of sanitary conditions.
- v. Provision of public latrine.
- vi. Burial and burning grounds.
- vii. Supply of drinking water.
- viii. Other duties that the Government, may by notification, impose.

a) Water Supply

Provision of drinking water supply in rural areas is the basic duty of Village Panchayat. Handpumps and powerpumps are the major sources of water supply and OHTs, GLRs and mini tanks are the major water storage structures in Village Panchayats. The number of water sources available in rural areas are as below:

Table 2.13

Drinking water sources in rural areas

Sl. No.	Category	No. Available
1	Hand Pump	2,12,359
2	Power Pump	95,353
3	Mini Power Pump	69,633
4	Open Well	16,983
5	Over Head Tank (OHT)	84,204
6	Ground Level Reservoirs (GLR)	9,180

In addition to the existing water sources, 83,334 water supply works were taken up during 2013-14 under different schemes such as Tamil Nadu Habitations Improvement Scheme (THAI), Rural Building Maintenance and Renovation Scheme (RBMRS), Infrastructure Gap Filling Fund (IGFF), State Finance Commission Grant (SFC) and from the General Fund of Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions at the cost of Rs.1,185.12 crore .

b) Street lights

Extension of street lights and maintenance is one of the basic service

delivered by the Village Panchayats. Different types of street light system maintained by the Village Panchayats are as detailed below:

Table 2.14

Street lights in Village Panchayats

Sl. No.	Type	No. Available
1	Tube Light	16,06,539
2	Mercury Vapour Lamp	9,944
3	Sodium Vapour Lamp	1,03,697
4	CFL	3,52,452
5	Bulb	203
6	Solar street lights	27,566
7	LED lights	1,179
Total		21,01,580

c) Maintenance of Cleanliness and hygienic conditions in Village Panchayats

It is mandatory for the Village Panchayat to provide hygienic condition and cleanliness in rural areas. Accordingly, Village Panchayats are undertaking the following types of sanitary activities.

- i. Cleaning of streets and panchayat roads
- ii. Construction and Clearing of drains and disposal of drainage water
- iii. Removal of rubbish heaps and jungle growth
- iv. Sanitary Arrangements for public toilets
- v. Supply of safe drinking water
- vi. Opening and maintenance of burial and burning grounds
- vii. The filling in of disused wells, insanitary ponds, pools, ditches, pits or hollows and other improvements of the sanitary condition of the Village.

To perform the sanitary works, a total number of 9,896 sweepers are already functioning in Village Panchayats. In order to further strengthen the Village Panchayats in sanitation, this Government have ordered for the appointment of 16,726 sweepers additionally vide G.O.Ms.No.129 & 130 Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(E5) Dept., dated: 14.9.2013. Further, this Government have allocated a sum of Rs.150 crore for undertaking Integrated Solid and Liquid Waste Management Projects in rural areas. The State Government have also instituted an award

called 'Clean Village Campaign' (CVC) to promote sanitation and clean environment in rural areas with the cash prize of Rs.5 lakh for one best Panchayat in each District. Moreover, the Self Help Groups in Village Panchayats are also playing active role in the removal of plastic wastes and in laying roads using the plastic wastes.

2.12.2. Discretionary Functions

As per Section 111 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, Village Panchayats should make provisions for carrying out the following requirements, which are deemed to be the discretionary functions of the Village Panchayats subject to the limits of its resources:

- i. Planting and preservation of trees
- ii. Lighting of public roads and public places
- iii. Opening and maintenance of public markets
- iv. Control of fairs & festivals
- v. Opening and maintenance of cart stand and cattle sheds, public slaughter houses and reading rooms,

- vi. Establishment and maintenance of play grounds, etc.

2.12.3. Resources

Village Panchayat is the only body, empowered to levy taxes among the three tiers of Panchayat Raj Institutions. The Village Panchayats are entitled to get revenue from tax and non-tax sources as detailed below:

A. Tax Revenue

Village Panchayats are entitled to get tax revenue as

- i. House / Property Tax
- ii. Professional Tax
- iii. Advertisement Tax

i) House / Property Tax

a) House Tax

As per Section 172 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, house tax shall be levied on all houses in every Panchayat. The tax is being levied on plinth area basis in rural areas. The house tax demand collection details from the year 2011-12 to 2013-14 are as below:

Table 2.15
Year wise House Tax Demand and
Collection Details

(Rs.in crore)

Year	No. of Assessment	Demand	Collection	Balance
2011-12	1,08,72,024	98.79	98.79	0.00
2012-13	1,13,13,627	118.84	118.84	0.00
2013-14	1,16,74,370	160.79	154.34	6.45
	Total	378.42	371.97	6.45

b) Property tax from the Self Finance Educational Institutions:

Every building constructed in the rural areas is liable to pay House Tax / Property Tax to the concerned Village Panchayat as per provisions laid down in Section 172 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 and G.O.(Ms) No. 255, Rural Development Department, dated 13.12.1999. Further, the buildings used for educational purposes by Government aided institutions, for conducting self financing unaided courses shall be subject to levy of house tax. Accordingly, from the year 2008-09 Village Panchayats fixed demand and are collecting the property tax from the Self Financing Educational Institutions. The

property tax collection details from the year 2011-12 to 2013-14 are as below:

Table 2.16
Year wise Property Tax Collection from the Self Financing Educational Institutions
(Rs.in crore)

Year	No. of Self Financing Educational Institutions	Demand	Collection	Balance
2011-12	3, 804	18.21	17.22	0.99
2012-13	3,963	20.26	18.86	1.40
2013-14	4,270	22.89	20.49	2.40
Total		61.36	56.57	4.79

ii) Professional Tax

The Village Panchayats are empowered to collect professional tax in rural areas. Under section 121 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1958, there is a provision to levy and collect profession tax payable by the employees from their salaries or wages and the employer has to deduct the same and remit to the concerned Village Panchayats. An amendment to section 198 A to Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1994 was issued incorporating a provision to levy tax on Profession, Trade, Calling and Employment.

The details of Professional tax demand and collection are as below:

Table 2.17
Year wise Professional Tax Demand and Collection Details
(Rs.in crore)

Year	Demand	Collection	Balance
2011-12	51.85	51.85	0.00
2012-13	57.58	57.58	0.00
2013-14	83.37	82.43	0.94

B) Non-Tax Revenue

The Village Panchayats are entitled to get revenue from the following sources as non-tax revenue:

- i. Licensing fee for building plan and layout approval
- ii. Fees and charges on Dangerous & Offensive trades
- iii. Market fee
- iv. Water charges
- v. Fee on cart stand
- vi. Social Forestry auctions
- vii. Fishery rentals
- viii. 2-C patta fee

- ix. Income from markets and fairs
- x. Fee from ferries
- xi. Fines and penalties

i) Licensing fee for layout and building plan approval

The Executive Authority of Village Panchayat i.e. the President is empowered under Tamil Nadu Panchayat Building Rules, 1997 to issue approval for layouts in rural areas with the prior concurrence of Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP). The Executive Authority is also empowered to issue building plan approval under the said rules. The licensing fee for layout and building plan approval is one of the major sources of non tax revenue to Village Panchayats.

ii) Dangerous & Offensive trade license fee

D&O Trade licenses are issued by the Village Panchayats. The applicants who are willing to start a new trade which involves dealing with dangerous and offensive substances/material and any such machinery as defined in section 159 of the Tamil Nadu

Panchayats Act, 1994 have to apply for the new license / renewal to the respective Village Panchayats.

During the year 2012-13, the District Collectors identified new trades in rural areas and updated the list of trades and issued Gazette Notification at District level revising the license fee for each trade. Accordingly, licenses for 2,03,075 trade units have been given by the Village Panchayats during the year 2013-14 and the license fee from such trades is Rs.8.89 crore.

iii) Water charges

The Village Panchayats are empowered to levy water charges to individual house hold service connections in rural areas. A deposit of Rs.1000/- has to be remitted to the Village Panchayat to get water connection. The individual has also to make payment of Rs. 30/- every month as water charges. The details of water charges collection from the year 2011-12 are detailed below:

Table 2.18
Year wise water charges collection details
(Rs. in crore)

Year	No. of House Hold Connections	Demand	Collection	Balance
2011-12	9,71,768	42.68	42.68	0.00
2012-13	10,32,638	48.11	48.11	0.00
2013-14	12,82,644	55.52	48.85	6.67
Total		146.31	139.64	6.67

iv) Assigned and Shared Revenue

(Details given in para 2.11)

v) Grant

The Grants such as State Finance Commission Grant, Central Finance Commission Grant and the Development Grants released by the Central and the State Government as Schemes.

2.12.4. Income range of Village Panchayats

There are 12,524 Village Panchayats in the State. The Village Panchayats are categorized on the basis of income for the year 2013-14 as detailed below:

Table 2.19
Income range of Village Panchayats

Income Range	No. of Panchayats
Rs.5-7 lakh	160
Above Rs.7-10 lakh	963
Above Rs.10-20 lakh	6,275
Above Rs.20-50 lakh	4,332
Above Rs.50 lakh – 1 crore	675
Above Rs.1 crore	119
Total	12,524

2.13. Awards

The State Government and the Government of India have instituted various awards to motivate and to recognize the initiatives and efforts taken by the three tiers of Panchayat Raj Institutions. Different types of awards being distributed to the Panchayat Raj Institutions are as below:

- i. Award under Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (PSP) earlier known as Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS)

- ii. Rashtriya Gaurav Grama Sabha Puraskar
- iii. Best Village Panchayat Award under MGNREGS
- iv. Nirmal Gram Puraskar
- v. Clean Village Campaign Award
- vi. Plastic free environment Award from Environment and Forest Department.

2.13.1. Award under Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (PSP) earlier known as PEAIS

The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India has constituted an award under Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (PSP) earlier known as PEAIS to Panchayat Raj Institutions with a view to support, encourage and facilitate the State to devolve more functions, functionaries and finances to the Panchayats and build their capacities.

The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India has given award to 6 best Village Panchayats, 2 best Panchayat Unions and one District Panchayat with a cash prize of Rs.1.22 crore to the Panchayat Raj Institutions at the rate of Rs.7 lakh for Village Panchayat, Rs.20 lakh for each Panchayat Union and Rs.40

lakh for each District Panchayat for the year 2012-13 as detailed below:

**Table 2.20
Award winning PRIs for the year 2012-13**

Sl. No.	Name of the PRI	District
1.	Tiruchirappali District Panchayat	Tiruchirappalli
2.	Annagramam Panchayat Union	Cuddalore
3.	Cheyyar Panchayat Union	Tiruvannamalai
4.	Papparambakkam Village Panchayat	Tiruvallur
5.	Nattarmangalam Village Panchayat	Cuddalore
6.	Thindamangalam Village Panchayat	Salem
7.	Esanatham Village Panchayat	Karur
8.	G.Kallupatty Village Panchayat	Theni
9.	Pethureddipatti Village Panchayat	Virudhunagar

The above Panchayat Raj Institutions were awarded by the Government of India on 24th April, 2013 at New Delhi.

The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India has selected the best 6 Village Panchayats, 2 Panchayat Unions and 1 District Panchayat for the award for 2013-14 at the rate of Rs.8 lakh for Village Panchayat, Rs.25 lakh for Panchayat Union and Rs.50 lakh for District Panchayat. The list of PRIs selected for the award is as below:

Table 2.21

Award winning PRIs for the year 2013-14

Sl. No	PRIs	District
1.	Thanjavur District Panchayat	Thanjavur
2.	Dindigul Panchayat Union	Dindigul
3.	Cheranmadevi Panchayat Union	Thirunelveli
4.	Nallur Village Panchayat	Thirunelveli
5.	Munnur Village Panchayat	Villupuram
6.	Orakadu Village Panchayat	Thiruvallur
7.	Nallamanaickanpatti Village Panchayat	Virudhunagar
8.	Bellarampalli Village Panchayat	Krishnagiri
9.	M.Kolakudi Village Panchayat	Cuddalore

2.13.2. Rashtriya Gaurav Grama Sabha Puraskar

The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India has constituted the Rashtriya Gaurav Grama Sabha Award from the year 2012 with a view to recognize and encourage the Gram Panchayats for outstanding performance through effective Grama Sabha. For the year 2011-12, Nedungunam Village Panchayat of Peranamallur Block in Tiruvannamalai District was awarded by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India with cash prize of Rs.10 lakh. For the year 2012-13, Karuthanenthal Village Panchayat of Bogalur Block in Ramanathapuram District has been selected by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India for the Award with a cash prize of Rs.10 lakh.

2.13.3. Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA)

The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India has introduced a new scheme called Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) from the year

2012-13. The 11th Plan schemes of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana(RGSY), Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme(PEAIS), Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakthi Abhiyan (PMEYSA) and e-Panchayat have been subsumed in the new scheme of RGPSA from the year 2013-14. To access funds under the scheme in the year 2013-14, the Perspective Plan for the period from 2013-14 to 2016-17 and Annual Plan for 2013-14 were sent to the Government of India. Accordingly, the Government of India have sanctioned Rs.155.04 crore for implementation of the RGPSA for the year 2013-14. Out of total allocation of Rs.155.04 crore, funds should be shared by the Central and the State in the ratio of 75:25. The Government of India have sanctioned Rs.116.28 crore as Central Share and released the first instalment of Rs.58.14 crore. The amount should be utilized for the following activities:

- i. Technical and Administrative Support at Village Panchayat level
- ii. Infrastructure Support to the Village Panchayats

- iii. Capacity Building & Training
- iv. Institutional Structure for training at State, District and Block level
- v. Intermediate Block Level Resource Centres
- vi. E-Enablement of Panchayats
- vii. Strengthening Panchayat Process in Panchayats with inadequate resource base
- viii. Information, Education and Communication (IEC).
- ix. Programme Management Unit at State / District level.

Action is being taken to implement the programme as per guidelines issued for the scheme.

2.14. Panchayat Union

At the intermediate level, there are 385 Panchayat Unions (Block Panchayats) in the State. The Panchayat Union, otherwise called as Block Panchayat, is divided into territorial wards for every five thousand population. The Panchayat Union ward members are directly elected from territorial wards and the

Panchayat Union Chairman is elected indirectly from among ward members.

Table 2.22
Classification of Panchayat Unions by
Number of Village Panchayats

Range of Village Panchayats in Panchayat Unions	Number of Panchayat Unions
Less than 10	23
11-20	80
21-30	80
31-40	83
41-50	65
51 and above	54
Total	385

The Block Development Officer (Block Panchayat) is the Executive Authority of the Panchayat Union. He is assisted by administrative and technical wings. According to section 112 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, Panchayat Union Council performs the following important functions:

1. Implementation of various Centrally Sponsored and State Schemes.

2. Construction, repair and maintenance of classified Panchayat Union roads and bridges, culverts and causeways on such roads.
3. Construction and maintenance of Elementary and Middle Schools.
4. Construction and maintenance of water bodies i.e. Minor irrigation tanks, ponds and ooranies under the control of Panchayat Unions.
5. Preventive and remedial measures for any epidemic.
6. Fairs and festivals classified by the Panchayat Union Council.
7. Opening and Maintenance of Panchayat Union Markets.

As per section 114 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, the Government may entrust schemes, programmes and activities for economic development, for execution and implementation.

2.14.1 Finance

1. The Panchayat Union Council cannot levy taxes.
2. Non-tax revenues, assigned/shared revenues such as a portion of the pooled assigned revenue, fees and charges, rentals, fines and penalties.
3. The Grants such as State Finance Commission Grant and the Development Grants released by the Central and the State Government as Schemes.

2.15. Bifurcation of Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats.

There are 385 Panchayat Unions in Tamil Nadu. All the 385 Panchayat Unions were constituted as per Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958. First batch of 75 Panchayat Unions were constituted with effect from 2nd October 1960. Second batch of 129 Panchayat Unions were constituted with effect from 14th April 1961. Third batch of 155 Panchayat Unions were constituted with effect from 2nd October 1961. Fourth batch of 26 Panchayat Unions were

constituted between the period from 1962 and 1986.

In G.O.(Ms) No.176, RD&PR Department, dated 09.12.2013, orders have been issued for the bifurcation of Pennagaram Panchayat Union and Morappur Panchayat Union and formation of two new Panchayat Unions namely Eriyur and Kadathur in Dharmapuri District. Formation of new Panchayat Unions by bifurcating the existing Panchayat Unions in the following Districts viz., Cuddalore, Krishnagiri, The Nilgiris, Kancheepuram and Villupuram are in process at different stages. After issue of orders for bifurcation and formation of new Panchayat Unions, they will become functional after completion of the ordinary elections to Local Bodies in the year 2016.

Table 2.23

Proposals for bifurcation of Panchayat Unions and formation of new Unions

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the existing Panchayat Union proposed for bifurcation	Name of the new Panchayat Union proposed to be formed after bifurcation
1	Krishnagiri	Bargur, Mathur, Kaveripattinam Panchayat Unions	Pochampalli Panchayat Union
		Thally, Kelamangalam Panchayat Unions	Anchetty Panchayat Union
2	Cuddalore	Kattumannarkoil, Keerapalayam and Kammapuram Panchayat Unions	Srimushnam Panchayat Union
3	The Nilgiris	Udhagamandalam Panchayat Union	Kundah Panchayat Union
		Gudalur Panchayat Union	Pandalur Panchayat Union
4	Kancheepuram	Uthiramerur Panchayat Union	Salavakkam Panchayat Union
5	Villupuram	Mugaiyur Panchayat Union	Manampoondi Panchayat Union
		Vaanur Panchayat Union	Kiliyanur Panchayat Union

2.16. District Panchayat

There are 31 District Panchayats in the State. District Panchayat has been constituted in each District as per section 24 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. The ward members are elected directly whereas the Chairperson is indirectly elected from among the ward members.

A Secretary in the cadre of Assistant Director from the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is appointed in each District Panchayat and is assisted by the supporting staff. The District Panchayat may constitute the following Standing Committees:

1. Food and Agriculture
2. Industries and Labour
3. Public Works
4. Education
5. Health and Welfare including Prohibition

The District Panchayat may constitute additional standing committees for such

purposes as it deems fit. Each Standing Committee shall elect its own Chairperson from among its members who are elected members of the District Panchayat. The Chairperson of the District Panchayat shall be the ex-officio member in all the Standing Committees.

2.16.1. Functions

1. Preparation of development plan for the District
2. Compilation of administration reports of Village Panchayats and Panchayat Union Councils in the District and preparation of Annual Report for the District.
3. Planning and review of Agricultural and Land Development, Animal Husbandry, Dairy, Poultry, Fisheries scheme and Rural Industries.
4. Planning and review of rural housing programme particularly housing for SCs/STs.
5. Identification of major water supply schemes.

2.16.2. Finance

The District Panchayat has no taxation powers. The State Finance Commission Grant is the main source of revenue. In certain cases, income from their own properties like lands and buildings, constitute the chief source of income 8% of the 58% of the rural share of Devolution Grant is given to the District Panchayats, which is released on a monthly basis.

2.17. District Planning Committee

The Institution of District Planning Committee is envisaged in the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act 1992. Accordingly, the District Planning Committee has been constituted in all the 31 Districts. District Panchayat Chairperson is the Chairperson and District Collector is the Vice Chairperson of the Committee. MPs, MLAs and the representatives of Local Bodies are appointed as members subject to the norms and ceiling prescribed. The functions of the District Planning Committee are:

1. Collection, Compilation and Updation of information on the natural resources of

the district to create a comprehensive database for decentralised planning.

2. Identification of priority needs
3. Determination of policies, programmes and priorities for development of the district.
4. Consolidating the plans of rural local bodies and urban local bodies for the preparation of district plan. This consolidated plan facilitates the State Planning Commission in the preparation of State Plan.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation of various developmental programmes in the district.
6. Encouraging the participation of Voluntary Organizations in the development process.
7. Advising the State Government with regard to the implementation of State Schemes.
8. Any other function that may be entrusted by the State Government.

2.18.Panchayat Raj Institutions Accounting Software (PRIA Soft) – Model Accounting System (MAS)

The Tamil Nadu Government issued orders for implementation of the PRIA Soft-Model Accounting System in all the three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), namely Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats, from the year 2012-13 and sanctioned Rs.79.50 crore for purchase of Computers, Printers, UPS and for Broadband connectivity to all the 12,524 Village Panchayats. The Government have nominated the Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu for purchase and installation of Computers and peripherals in all the Village Panchayats. Accordingly, the ELCOT has completed the delivery and installation of Computers and Peripherals in all the Village Panchayats. Broadband connectivity has been provided by the BSNL in 9,373 Panchayats so far. The ELCOT has programmed to conduct basic computer training to all the Village Panchayat Secretaries and completed training for 7,406 Panchayat Secretaries so far.

Training on PRIA Soft-MAS has been given to the Trainers of Trainees, District level, Block level Officials and the Panchayat Secretaries. Accounts for the year 2012-13 have been completed online using PRIA Soft-MAS application. Present status in the three tier PRIs is as below:

Table 2.24
PRIA Soft online entry in the three tier PRIs 2012-13

Sl. No.	Local Body	No.	Online entry completed
1.	Village Panchayats	12,524	12,524
2.	Block Panchayats	385	385
3.	District Panchayats	31	31

Online entry for the year 2013-14 also has been started in the Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats as detailed below:

Table 2.25
PRIA Soft online entry in the three tier PRIs 2013-14

Sl. No.	Local Body	No.	Online entry completed
1.	Village Panchayats	12,524	7,202
2.	Block Panchayats	385	122
3.	District Panchayats	31	31

2.18.1. Other e-Panchayat Applications:

Training on the balance applications namely Plan Plus, Action Soft, Area Profiler, Local Government Directory, Asset Directory and National Panchayat Portal application have been given to the staff of State Project Management Unit (SPMU) and District Project Management Units (DPMUs) during January and February 2014 by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India. These applications will be rolled out in the current year.

2.19. Initiatives taken for improvement of Panchayat processes and service delivery

2.19.1. Tax Collection

Creation of computerized data base at Village Panchayat level for tax and non-tax revenue and introduction of automated handheld electronic tax collection would pave way for efficient revenue collection in Village Panchayats. This system is being implemented in Urban Local Bodies. The Automated GPRS based electronic handheld tax collection system in 385 peri-urban Village Panchayats will be introduced on pilot basis during 2014-15. The estimate cost of this project is Rs. 99.46 lakh and the project will be funded by Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission under Part II Scheme.

Objectives

1. Streamlining and computerization of Village Panchayat Registers.
2. Creation of database for tax and non-tax revenue resources at Village Panchayat level.

3. Door step / On the spot receipt and SMS generation to tax payers.
4. Facilitating web based tax payment.
5. Real time online monitoring of progress in tax and non-tax revenue collection in Village Panchayats.

The Project will be implemented by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department with technical assistance from NIC. The staff of State Project Management Unit (SPMU) and District Project Management Unit (DPMU) responsible for e-Panchayat applications will co-ordinate the project at State level and District level. The Panchayat Secretaries will be the field level functionaries for the project. The Block Development Officer (V.P) and the Assistant Director (Panchayats) will be the Block level and District level monitoring officers respectively.

2.19.2. Monitoring of salary payment to Village Panchayat staff:

Village Panchayats have the following categories of staff

- i. Panchayat Secretary
- ii. Over Head Tank Operator
- iii. Sanitary Worker

The Pay Drawing Officer for the above categories of staff is the President, Village Panchayat. In order to promote the service conditions of the non-provincialised staff in Village Panchayats through timely payment of salary, online monitoring system for timely payment of salary to Village Panchayat Level staff is being rolled out across the State. The basic features of this online monitoring system are detailed below:-

The profiles of all the Village Panchayat staff is being uploaded and validated in the official website of RD & PR Department. Pilot study on payment of salary to Panchayat staff through ECS has been completed during 2013-14. The Software programme for generation of online pay rolls to Panchayat staff is being developed by State NIC. All the payments to the Panchayat staff will be made through ECS during 2014-15.

2.19.3. Village Panchayat Bank Accounts Monitoring Module:

Village Panchayats are maintaining the following accounts at various Banking Institutions in the rural areas.

1	Account No. 1	General funds of Village Panchayat
2	Account No. 2	Earmarked for certain specific purpose
3	Account No. 3	Scheme funds
4	Account No. 4	MGNREGS
5	Account No. 5	Rural Housing Scheme
6	Account No. 6	Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green Housing Scheme

The money kept in the above accounts are used by the Village Panchayat for provision of basic amenities, payment of user charges to TANGEDCO / TWAD Board, implementation of schemes and for regular Panchayat administration. In order to effectively monitor the fund utilization and also to monitor the expenditure from these accounts, an Online Bank Accounts Monitoring

Module has been developed. All the bank transactions happening under different accounts of Village Panchayats will be sent to central server maintained by NIC at Chennai. It will facilitate the Government to monitor the opening balance, drawal amount and closing balance in each account on a daily basis. Various reports can be generated and effective monitoring can be made in respect of proper utilisation of funds available in the Village Panchayats.

2.19.4. Habitation level Water Mapping

Daily supply of drinking water to all the 79,394 rural habitations is the ideal condition to satisfy the drinking water requirements of rural people. Effective water use planning to meet the water supply demand in rural areas require basic information in order to devise a sustainable strategy for water supply in each Village Panchayat. In this connection, this Government has decided to introduce an online habitation level water mapping module for water use planning in rural areas. The objective of this initiative is to improve service delivery in Village Panchayats by developing

online tools for data entry and data analysis in respect of provision of water supply. Monitoring of water supply to all the habitations through online has already been initiated in the year 2013-14. This module will be upscaled as online water supply mapping module during 2014-15 to focus drinking water supply in all the habitations and to take up water supply works in the needy areas.

2.19.5 Grievance Redressal System – Call Centre

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department is responsible for the implementation of various centrally-sponsored, state-funded, and externally-aided schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, sanitation, capacity building, and social and economic empowerment of women. In the course of implementation of the above, grievance petitions are being received from the public, elected representatives and from the staff of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department on various issues.

In order to express their grievances, people from rural area, elected representatives and the staff of the department has to approach Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in person for which they have to travel all the way from their place sparing their time and money. It is proposed to have a mechanism that could make registration of grievances and communication of action on redressal of grievances at the doorstep of all concerned. Call centre is one of the mechanisms that would help in redressing the grievances of the citizen at their doorstep of all concerned. Hence it has been proposed to set up a call centre at an estimated cost of Rs.44.91 lakhs with the objective of immediate redressal of grievances by the concerned authorities then and there without any impediment.

2.19.6. Validation and grouping of TANGEDCO Service Connections in Village Panchayats

Payment of Electricity charges to TANGEDCO for the consumption of electricity

by Panchayat Buildings, Street Lights and Power Pumps is a major item of expenditure in Village Panchayats. In order to provide a system for energy audit in Village Panchayats and to streamline the consumption of electricity and payment of electricity charges, an online module for validation and grouping of TANGEDCO service connection has been developed. This module will help in payment of current consumption charges in time and for analysis of electricity consumption by different categories of Panchayat assets which will in turn help in energy use planning.

2.20. Measures taken for the prevention of Dengue fever:

To control the spread of Dengue fever by eradicating the mosquitoes and its larvae in rural areas, following measures have been taken in all the Village Panchayats.

- Village Panchayat has acted as Unit to create awareness so that Common Public in the Village Panchayat gets sensitized about the Dengue fever and how it spreads.

- Regular Block level Meetings were arranged to create awareness involving Panchayat Union Chairpersons, Village Panchayat Presidents, District Malaria Officer, Block Development Officers, Block Health Supervisors and Village Health Nurses.
- Local Media (both Electronic and Print) were utilized properly for the creation of awareness, so that the message has spread among the public.
- Pamphlets were issued on the prevention of Dengue fever including the control and prevention of spread of mosquitoes and its larvae. Tom toms also were beaten to illustrate the effects of Dengue fever and measures to reduce mosquito menace.
- The SHG members were engaged wherever necessary to create awareness and also to work closely with the Panchayat Raj Institutions and Health Department.

- Mass cleaning organized in all the Village Panchayats. Regular removal of garbage has been ensured in all the habitations.
- The Over Head Tanks (OHTs), Ground Level Reservoirs (GLRs) and Hand Pump Platforms in the Village Panchayats were cleaned and effective chlorination have been done.
- Necessary instructions were given to the Block Development Officers and the Village Panchayats to fill up the low lying areas in their Village Panchayats with gravel to avoid water stagnation. All the drains were cleared to ensure free flow of sewage water. Water stagnation of any kind namely, in used tyres, used coconut kennels, broken pots etc were prevented and such items were disposed off properly.
- The Panchayat Unions have engaged Mazdoors at Block level for the cleaning of Village Panchayats and for prevention and control of dengue fever.

- Regular fogging of the houses and open streets so as to eliminate the mosquitoes in the affected Panchayats.
- The District Collectors have appointed Zonal Officers for each Block in the cadre of Assistant Director to monitor the cleaning operations in the Village Panchayats.
- Adequate and daily drinking water supply to all the habitations in rural areas.
- Adjacent Village Panchayats of the affected Village Panchayats were monitored closely.
- Door to door canvassing had been done to ensure that water is stored in closed containers.
- All the PRI representatives were sensitized on the menace of spreading of mosquitoes and they are actively involved in the field co-ordinating with Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department and Health Department officials.

2.20. Measures taken for prevention and control of Foot and Mouth Disease

Detailed instructions were given to all the District Collectors to take necessary action for the control of Foot and Mouth Disease in the rural areas in coordination with the Animal Husbandry Department. Following measures were taken to prevent the foot and mouth disease in rural areas:

- The Assistant Directors (Panchayats) were instructed to take action for stopping the movement of affected animals from one Village Panchayat to other and to ensure bio-security and sanitary measures in the disease prone areas.
- Efficient quantity of Bleaching powder was stored in all the Village Panchayats and used in the areas wherever required.
- Instructions were given to close the cattle shandies in rural areas till the situation becomes normal and continuously monitored the situation along with the Animal Husbandry officials at District level.

3. STATE SCHEMES

3. STATE SCHEMES

3.1. Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement (THAI) Scheme

In order to ensure effective delivery mechanism, the strategy of Rural Development has mainly focused on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities through various innovative programmes. Normally, "Village Panchayat" is being taken as the basic structural and functional unit of development. This Government has committed to take up the planning, financing and implementation of the rural development schemes a step further i.e., to the level of habitation in the Village Panchayat. With the objective of equitable distribution of resources to all habitations, this Government has introduced the flagship programme called **Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement (THAI) Scheme** from 2011-12 onwards to overcome the bottlenecks in the uneven distribution of resources and to provide minimum basic infrastructure facilities to all the habitations. *Tamil Nadu is the only*

State focusing on 'Habitation' as the unit of development and no other State in the Country is implementing such an innovative scheme.

There is an average of about 7 habitations in each Village Panchayat in Tamil Nadu with 79,394 habitations in 12,524 Village Panchayats. However, the number of habitations varies from district to district. The average number of habitations in a Village Panchayat in The Nilgiris District is 37 whereas it is only 3 in Villupuram District. Uniform allocation of funds to all the Village Panchayats, having varied number of habitations, has lead to disparity in development, disproportionate distribution of assets and uneven progress. Hence, to remove the above lacunae and to have a balanced distribution of funds and assets creating the basic infra-structure, "Habitation" has been taken as the basic unit for implementation of Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme" (THAI Scheme). There are 12,524 Village Panchayats in the State spread across the 31 Districts (except Chennai). The

population in Tamil Nadu varies widely with some Village Panchayats having population even below 500 while some others have population exceeding 10,000.

On the basis of number of habitations, the Village Panchayats are classified as below:

Table 3.1.1
Classification of Village Panchayats based on the number of habitations

Sl. No.	Habitation range	No. of Village Panchayats
1	Below 5	6,241
2	5-15	5,434
3	16-25	637
4	26-50	189
5	Above 50	23
Total		12,524

3.1.1. Fund allocation

There is a positive correlation between the population of a Village Panchayat and the number of habitations within it. The requirement of a Village Panchayat will be more if it has more number of habitations. Taking this into consideration, the Village Panchayats have been grouped into 5 categories based on the number of habitations

for the purpose of allocation of funds. Thus, Village panchayats with more number of habitations with a larger population shall receive more funds. The following table also exhibits the same facts.

Table 3.1.2
Fund requirements for THAI Scheme

Sl. No	Habitation Range	No. of Village Panchayats	Total Population	Average Population per Panchayat	Allocation per Panchayat (Rs. in lakh)		
					Minimum Basic Grant	Additional Fund	Total Fund
1	Below 5	6,241	1,25,34,047	2,008	20	0	20
2	5-15	5,434	1,73,92,688	3,201	20	10	30
3	16-25	637	35,53,429	5,578	20	20	40
4	26-50	189	15,57,132	8,239	20	30	50
5	Above 50	23*	3,07,557	13,372	20	30	50
Total		12,524	3,53,44,853	2,822	-	-	-

* There are 23 Village Panchayats with more than 50 habitations. The requirements of these habitations have been identified and are being dovetailed with various Rural Development Schemes during 2014-15.

In 2011-12, the scheme was implemented with an annual allocation of Rs.680 crore. Considering the importance of fulfilling the infrastructural gaps in rural habitations, the Government has enhanced the

allocation to Rs.750 crore from the year 2012-13. The additional amount of Rs.70 crore is earmarked for improving connectivity in the vicinity of THAI villages.

Out of the total fund allocation, approximately 3% is allocated for undertaking survey, preparatory activities, documentation including engaging of personnels and for information, education and communication (IEC) activities including installation of information boards, boards containing the details of the works taken up in the habitations for the information of the public.

3.1.2. Scheme Components

Table 3.1.3
Works under THAI Scheme are grouped under the following 3 categories

Sl. No	Minimum Basic Requirements	Additional Requirements	Other Works
1.	Water Supply	Anganwadi Centres	Any other permitted works
2.	Street Lights	Public Distribution Shops	
3.	Roads	SHG Buildings	
4.	Burial grounds	Threshing Floors	
5.	Pathway to Burial Grounds	Play Grounds	

3.1.3. Minimum Basic Requirements

3.1.3.1. Water supply

Habitations with below 40 Lpcd water availability have been identified and water supply works like provision of power pump, extension of pipeline, augmentation of existing source are being taken up so as to increase water supply.

3.1.3.2. Street lights

With the aim of providing street lights at regular intervals of 30 meters, new streetlights are provided in the new habitations, extension areas, Adi-dravidar & Tribal habitations and IAY housing colonies, based on the actual need. Additional street lights, including Solar powered lights, are being provided in the areas where the existing coverage is inadequate.

3.1.3.3. Roads

a) Cement Concrete

In residential units which are Streets or lanes prone to water logging, part of the uncovered portion where a portion of the street

has already been covered with cement concrete will be taken up on priority.

b) Link Roads

As a measure to provide proper 'All Weather' roads, Link roads connecting bus-plying roads, upgradation of WBM roads to BT standard connecting two or more habitations in the same Panchayat and upgradation of earthen/gravel roads are taken up.

3.1.3.4. Cremation / Burial grounds

Based on need, provisions for cremation shed / waiting shed in burial grounds are being provided with approach road, compound wall, water facility and lights.

3.1.3.5. Pathway to burial ground

Wherever the pathway is already available, improvement of the existing pathway will be taken up and wherever pathway is not available, top priority is given to provide approach road or pathway.

- The additional requirements and other permitted works will be taken up based on need and necessity.

- Apart from THAI, funds from various schemes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and schemes of other Departments are also dovetailed to bridge the infrastructure gap in the Habitations.

3.1.4. Additional Requirements

Wherever essential, the additional requirements like Public Distribution Shops, Anganwadis, SHG Buildings, Threshing Floors and Play grounds are being provided.

Apart from the basic requirements and additional requirements, other essential requirements are also being provided.

3.1.5. Scheme Implementation during 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14

To ascertain the availability of basic needs and to assess further requirement of basic infrastructure in these habitations, a unique detailed survey has been conducted for the first time in the country assessing the actual availability of facilities at the habitation level and the actual needs to be fulfilled at the

micro level for which an online database has been created (www.tnrd.gov.in).

The survey consists of the following set of 12 formats which assessed the availability of basic needs of water supply, street lights, roads and other infrastructure facilities and further requirements at the habitation level.

1. Basic details of the habitation
2. Water supply
 - (a) Over Head Tanks
 - (b) Mini Power Pumps
 - (c) Ground Level Reservoirs
 - (d) Hand Pumps
3. Street Lights
4. Streets and Lanes
5. Burial / Cremation grounds
6. (a) All Buildings belonging to Government / Local Body Institutions (except School Buildings)
 - (b) All School Buildings belonging to Government / Local Body Institutions.
7. Ponds and Ooraries
8. Playgrounds
9. Bus stands
10. Shandies
11. Details of Self Help groups

- 12.(a) Village Panchayat roads
(b) Panchayat Union roads.

A detailed survey has been conducted in 25,335 habitations of 2,020 Village Panchayats for the year 2011-12, 18,581 Habitations of 2,250 Village Panchayats for the year 2012-13 and 15,115 habitations of 2500 Village Panchayats for the year 2013-14. Based on the survey, a detailed action plan has been drawn and the minimum basic requirements, additional essential requirements and other requirements have been fulfilled with the available funds.

Apart from THAI scheme, works have been dovetailed by utilizing funds of various Rural Development schemes like MLACDS, MPLADP, 13th Finance Commission Grant etc. Dovetailing of funds from other departments is also being done to fulfill the entire needs of the village.

3.1.6. Scheme Implementation in phases

- The scheme has been programmed to be implemented in V phases from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

- During 2011-12, this programme was implemented in 25,335 habitations of 2,020 Village Panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.680 crore.
- During 2012-13, this programme was implemented in 18,581 habitations of 2,250 Village Panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.750 crore.
- During 2013-14, this programme has been implemented in 15,115 habitations of 2,500 Village Panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.750 crore.
- During 2014-15, this programme will be implemented in 12,095 habitations of 2,741 Village Panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.750 crore.
- During 2015-16, this programme will be implemented in 8,268 habitations of 3,013 Village Panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.750 crore.

Thus, all the 79,394 Habitations in all 12,524 Village Panchayats will be provided with the required basic amenities by 2015-16.

3.1.7. Achievements

a) Works taken up during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013 - 14

Table 3.1.4
The details of works taken up during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 in fulfilling the basic amenities are as follows (works in number)

Sl.No	Category of works	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Basic Requirements				
1	Water Supply	7754	11367	12133
2	Street Lights	21590	21998	23335
3	Roads	14780	8327	8324
4	Burial Grounds	3359	3549	3951
5	Pathway to Burial Grounds	388	1137	1334
Additional Requirements				
1	Anganwadi Buildings	54	26	9
2	Public Distribution Shops	57	17	18
3	SHG Buildings	14	5	3
4	Threshing Floors	161	84	30
5	Play Ground	7	3	1
Other Requirements				
1	Others	1206	669	270
Total		49,370	47,182	49,408

3.1.8. Scheme Implementation during 2014-15

- THAI Scheme will be implemented in 12,095 habitations of 2,741 Village Panchayats with an allocation of Rs.750 crore.
- Detailed Survey has been conducted already in these habitations and online data base has been created. The list of works have been finalized and duly approved by the Grama Sabha held on 26.1.2014. The Government have also permitted the District Collectors to start the works by following the scheme guidelines issued for the previous financial year i.e 2013-14. All the District Collectors have accorded administrative sanction for all the works, completed the tender processes and the works have been started.

3.2. Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme (CMSPGHS)

The Government of Tamil Nadu had launched a landmark scheme called 'Chief

Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme' during the year 2011-12 with the objective of construction of houses measuring about 300 sq.ft at a unit cost of Rs.1.80 lakh, which is entirely funded by the State Government.

Accordingly, this Government had ordered for construction of 3 lakh Solar Powered Green Houses vide G.O.(Ms) No.46, RD&PR (SGS-I)Dept. dt.17.08.2011 in the five years period starting from 2011-12 with an annual target of 60,000 houses.

Considering the request of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and people the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on 09.04.2013, that the unit cost of the house under CMSPGHS would be enhanced from Rs.1.80 lakh to Rs.2.10 lakh from the year 2013-14. Of the total cost, the cost of construction will be Rs.1.80 lakh and Rs.30,000 is earmarked for installation of Solar Powered Home Lighting System which is being done directly by the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) in coordination with the Project

Directors of District Rural Development Agencies.

The 'Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme' ordered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister is a flagship scheme of the Government of Tamil Nadu, which fulfills the housing needs of the rural poor. This is the first time in the country that houses are constructed with an area of 300 sq.ft with Solar Powered Home Lights.

3.2.1 . Salient features of the Scheme

- All the people living below poverty line in rural areas are eligible for Solar Powered Green Houses.
- Each house is built with an area of 300 square feet at a unit cost of Rs.2.10 lakh fully funded by the State Government.
- Each house consists of a living room, bed room, kitchen, toilet and verandah apart from a provision for Rain Water Harvesting structure.
- Each house is provided with 5 solar powered Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL), one each in bed room,

living room, kitchen, toilet and verandah. Each beneficiary is given the option to have an electric connection powered by TNEB, which will be metered.

- The Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department is entrusted with the construction of houses and Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) is the implementing agency for solar lighting component.
- The Green Houses are constructed either in situ (replacing his/her existing dwelling structure) or in the land owned by the beneficiary elsewhere in the Village Panchayat. No land acquisition is envisaged under this scheme. Only people with patta or valid title for their sites are eligible under this scheme.

3.2.2. Eligibility of the Beneficiaries

The beneficiary should:

- Reside within the Village Panchayat
- Find a place in the BPL permanent wait list of the Village Panchayat

- Own a site of not less than 300 sq.ft. area
- Have clear patta for the site/house in the name of the head of the family or any other member of the household
- Not own any other pucca concrete house in the village or elsewhere
- Not have been benefited under any other housing scheme of the Government.

3.2.3. Mode of Selection of Beneficiaries

- A permanent wait list of BPL for each Village Panchayat should be drawn and the poorest of the poor should be selected.
- Out of the total allocation of 60,000 houses in a year, 29% are allotted to SC community i.e, 17,400 houses, 1% is allotted to ST community i.e 600 houses and the remaining 70% are allotted to others ie 42,000 houses (Except SC and ST) for the people living below poverty line in rural areas.
- 3% of the Districtwise allocation should be exclusively reserved for differently abled persons.

- While preparing the list of beneficiaries, priority should be given to differently abled, widows, destitute and deserted women, women headed families, Ex-servicemen and retired members of the Paramilitary forces, families living in rural areas falling under below poverty line category having severely malnourished children (as identified by the ICDS Department), transgenders, HIV/AIDS/TB affected who are certified by the Deputy Director (Health Services) concerned and victims of natural calamities such as fire, flood, etc., Priority shall also be given to households having a mentally challenged person in the family.
- Any eligible poor person whose name does not figure in the BPL list can apply to the Block Development Officer and an Assistant Director level officer of the RD&PR Department may verify the fact and with the concurrence of the District Collector, his name may be included in the BPL list and approval of Grama Sabha shall be obtained for the same. In

the event of inclusion, his/her name will become a part of the permanent wait list and considered for selection accordingly.

- The Village Panchayat should draw a list of eligible beneficiaries living below poverty line under this scheme and place it before the Grama Sabha for its approval.
- The details regarding selection of beneficiaries, allocation of houses, supply of materials and other guidelines regarding the implementation of the scheme are detailed in G.O.(Ms)No.74, RD&PR (SGS-1) Dept, dated 25.06.2014 which can be accessed through RD website http://tnrd.gov.in/scheme/st_cmspghs.php

3.2.4. Mobile based online monitoring and payment

At present there is delay between the time valuation certificate are prepared by the overseers and to the time the beneficiary actually receives the cheque. Moreover the release of funds is not linked to the physical

progress of works on a dynamic basis which leads to accumulation of funds in certain panchayats and shortage of funds in other panchayats. To overcome this, a new system of online monitoring and fund management system is proposed to be introduced from the year 2014-15.

In order to have a more efficient scheme monitoring and management system and quick disbursement of bills to the beneficiaries, the following mode of bill preparation and Scheme Monitoring System is proposed from the year 2014-15 onwards as detailed below:

- Every financial year the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj would allocate the number of houses to each district.
- The District Rural Development Agencies shall in turn allocate the houses to needy Village Panchayats in the District.
- The Block Development Officer (V.Pt.), Deputy Block Development Officer and Village Panchayat President concerned shall select the

genuine BPL beneficiary as per guidelines and the final list of selected beneficiaries identified by the committee should be placed before the Grama Sabha for approval.

- The Block Development Officer (B.Pt.) should issue the work order to the beneficiaries after confirming the eligibility of beneficiaries with reference to title and site by the officials of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- At the time of issue of work order, the bank account details of the beneficiary like name of the Bank, Branch name, Account Number, IFS Code of the bank etc will be collected and the same will also be indicated in the work order. The details of bank account of the beneficiary should be validated by a Deputy Block Development Officer level officer as it is being done for MGNREGS workers. For this purpose, the MGNREGS or OAP or any other available bank account details will be utilized. If

the beneficiary does not have an account, a new bank account should be opened. The work order will be generated by the system which will be issued to the beneficiary. A copy of the work order will be marked to the Overseer and Assistant Engineer for further action.

3.2.5. Mobile based online monitoring

- The bank account details of the beneficiaries will be entered in the "Online Scheme Monitoring System" at the Block level at the time of work creation.
- At the time of marking of the site, the Overseer/Assistant Engineer along with the Deputy Block Development Officer will sensitise the beneficiary about the various aspects of the construction of the house and the role of the department as well as the beneficiaries in the construction of houses including supply of materials, bill payment etc.

- The online scheme monitoring system will be linked to a simple mobile application (Real Time Monitoring System), loaded in a smart phone, available with Union overseers and Assistant Engineers. The progress of each house can be uploaded directly from the field, along with the photos and geo-reference (Lat-Long), using this application. This will form the basis for making payments. (NIC, Chennai has already developed a Real Time Monitoring System (RTMS) for updating progress of road works from a Smart Phone).
- After marking of site, the Overseer/Assistant Engineer will take a photograph of the site of the proposed house with the help of the GPS enabled smart phone. The photograph will be taken from a distance of not more than 10 mts so as to cover the entire house site. This photo will be uploaded into Online Scheme Monitoring System (OSMS) along with Geo-reference and

will serve as the reference bench mark (BM) for making stage-wise payment for the particular beneficiary.

- After completion of the house upto basement level, the Overseer/Assistant Engineer will take another photograph from the same place preferably from where the photo was taken at the time of marking the site.
- The Overseer/ Assistant Engineer will also enter the stage of the work from the site and the photograph along with the stage of the house will be uploaded into the OSMS. The geo-fencing will act as a validation for verifying if the photograph belongs to the particular beneficiary.

3.2.6. Mobile based valuation certificate and fund management

- A billing module will be created in the RD website which will contain the approved valuation certificate and Memo of Payment. This will be linked to the Mobile application of the Real Time Monitoring System and the existing

OSMS so that stage-wise valuation certificates and memo of payment is automatically generated as and when the progress of a house is updated through the mobile application and authenticated by photos with geo-reference.

- The Assistant Engineer can now generate the online valuation certificate for the particular beneficiary for the given stage along with the photograph. Once the valuation certificate is approved by the Assistant Executive Engineer, who is the check measuring authority, the valuation certificate will be forwarded to the Block Development Officer (BP) through the OSMS.
- A hard copy of the valuation certificate will also be printed out from the OSMS by the Assistant Engineer and counter signed by Assistant Executive Engineer and submits the same to the office for record purpose.
- In order to make payment for a house at basement stage, the photograph of the house will be uploaded. The concerned

officer will log-in to the RD website and generate preloaded valuation certificate, take print-out and affix signature and submit the same in the office for further processing.

- On receipt of the valuation certificate from the Assistant Engineer / Assistant Executive Engineer the concerned Assistant / Accountant / Deputy Block Development Officer shall log in and generate Memo of Payment for the particular house and process the file and put up the bills to the Block Development Officer (B.Pt.).
- The Block Development Officer (B.Pt.) will clear the bill after deducting the cost for material like cement, steel etc., if any and necessary entries should be made in the estimate allotment register and cash book of the scheme account and forward the bill and memo of payment to President of the Village Panchayat concerned to make payment to the beneficiary.

- After the receipt of the bill and memo of payment, the President shall follow the existing procedures to make payment to the beneficiary concerned.

3.2.7. Advantages of mobile based online monitoring system

- This system of mobile based monitoring will considerably reduce the time taken for issue of work order, preparation of valuation certificate and payment to beneficiaries.
- Moreover, since photos are being uploaded at every stage, it will be helpful for the officers at the Block, District and State level to monitor the scheme closely and can speed up the progress of houses.

3.2.8. Implementation of CMSPGHS

During the year 2013-14, 60,000 houses have been taken up at a total estimated cost of Rs.1,260 crore.

For the year 2014-15 also, 60,000 houses will be taken up under the scheme at a cost of Rs.1,260 crore.

3.3. Energisation of Street Lights with Solar Power Scheme

This scheme was introduced by the Government in the year 2011-12 under which existing street lights in the Village Panchayats will be replaced with solar powered street lights with an objective of reduction in the maintenance expenditure and promote the concept of renewable energy in rural areas. This programme is implemented in the Village Panchayats on experimental basis. Initially, 1 lakh street lights in 1,000 Village Panchayats will be taken up for replacement with solar power over a period of 5 years upto 2016. Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) is the implementing agency for energisation of street lights with solar power.

Accordingly, a total of 60,000 street lights have been taken up for energisation with solar power at the cost of Rs.138.70 crore and completed 22,391 street lights so far.

3.4. Energisation of Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union Office Buildings with Roof Top solar power

The Honorable Chief Minister has announced in the floor of Assembly that, all the 12,524 Village Panchayats and 385 Panchayat Union Offices will be energized with solar power in a phased manner with the objective of control of expenditure of Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions and to promote renewable energy in rural areas. The Government have issued orders sanctioning Rs.6.05 crore for energisation of 50 Panchayat Union Offices and 500 Village Panchayat Offices with Solar Power in the year 2013-14. The Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) has been nominated by the Government as the Agency to call for tender and finalise the companies for energisation with roof top solar power. The District Rural Development Agencies at District level will implement the scheme through the Block Development Officers. The TEDA has called for tender.

3.5.Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme

Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme (CSIDS) was launched by this Government during 2011-12 with an objective of providing basic infrastructure facilities like New Buildings, Kitchen sheds, Water supply, Toilets, etc., in the Panchayat Union Primary and Middle Schools in rural areas. Repairs and renovation of the existing facilities are also being taken up under this Scheme, wherever necessary. This scheme is also being implemented in the Panchayat Union schools located in Town Panchayats and Grade III Municipalities.

Strength of the students in the school is the basis for taking up new buildings. These new buildings are constructed with RCC roof along with weathering course. The space available in school premises is used for new construction and if adequate space is not available, a new floor is added to the existing RCC Building after assessing its structural stability.

New kitchen sheds are taken up in those schools where kitchen sheds are not available and the existing damaged kitchen sheds are taken up for repair and renovation. Additional rooms/store rooms may also be constructed under the scheme for stocking the commodities.

Existing water supply system in the schools which are in damaged condition are taken up for repairs. Extension of pipelines is provided wherever necessary. New water supply connection from the existing Panchayat water source or a new bore well is also provided wherever necessary.

This Government will ensure that all the Panchayat Union Schools have adequate toilet facilities for girls and boys. Incinerators are provided in the toilets for the benefit of girl students. If it is felt that funds under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan are insufficient to meet the requirement of new toilets, the toilets can be taken up under the Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme also.

As a measure to maintain the school environment clean and to ensure safety of the

students, compound wall construction was also allowed from 2012-13 onwards.

Selection and finalization of works are undertaken by the Committees constituted at the Block level. These Committees inspect each and every school along with the already available THAI survey "Base list" for ascertaining the actual infrastructural needs of the schools.

3.5.1. Scheme implementation during 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14

An amount of Rs.100 crore each has been allocated for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14 respectively. The basic requirements viz, buildings, kitchen sheds, toilets, water supply and compound wall facilities have been extended to all THAI Villages of 2011-12 (2020 Village Panchayats), 2012-13 (2250 Village Panchayats) and 2013-14 (2500 Village Panchayats) in a comprehensive manner.

During 2011-12, 10,418 works were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.87.40 crore, during 2012-13, 9,072 works were taken

up at an estimated cost of Rs.95.37 crore and during 2013-14, 10,043 works were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.100.20 crore

3.5.2. Scheme Implementation during 2014-15

It has been proposed to implement the scheme on the above lines with an allocation of Rs.100 crore during the year 2014-15.

3.6. Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS)

In order to identify and execute the essential infrastructure works in the assembly constituencies, Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) is being implemented in the State. The MLAs identify the infrastructure gaps in the constituencies and propose the works to be executed in the constituencies. The scheme is implemented both in Rural and Urban areas. From the year 2011-12 onwards, the fund allocation under the scheme had been increased from Rs. 1.75 crore to Rs.2.00 crore per constituency per annum.

The District Collectors are empowered to accord administrative sanction for the chosen works and also identify the implementing agency. An amount of Rs.1,12,50,000/- shall be earmarked for priority works, exclusively fixed by the Government and out of the remaining Rs. 87,50,000/- the MLAs can choose works of their choice in tune with the guidelines of the scheme.

3.6.1. Salient Features

3.6.1.1. Works to be taken up under Tied Component of Rs. 1.125 crores

A sum of Rs.1.125 crore shall be earmarked for works prescribed under "Tied Component". In order to provide infrastructure facilities to schools, a sum of Rs.25,00,000/- per MLA has been earmarked for provision of infrastructure facilities like toilet, water supply, etc., to schools and kitchen sheds which are in dilapidated conditions both in rural and urban areas. Further, each MLA should allot Rs.20 lakh for construction of Anganwadi Buildings, Noon Meal Centres and kitchen sheds in rural as well as urban areas from MLACDS funds. The MLAs should also allot Rs. 5 lakh each for

aids & appliances for differently abled persons. Out of Rs.5.00 lakh, a sum of Rs. 2.00 lakh has been allocated for the purchase of scooters with side wheels attached modernized prosthetic device and behind-the-ear hearing aid. Apart from this, a sum of Rs.10,00,000/- shall be earmarked for modernization of Anganwadi kitchen Centres with Gas connection etc., at the rate of Rs.6,050/- per Anganwadi centre as one time expenditure. After taking all the eligible Anganwadi Kitchen Centres in the Constituency, the remaining funds shall be utilized for modernization of School Kitchen Centres at the rate of Rs.22,000/- per Centre as one time expenditure as per G.O.(Ms).No.294, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme (SW.7) Department dated : 11.12.2012. In GO.Ms.No. 60, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SGS-1) Department, dated: 26.6.2013, a sum of Rs. 5.00 Lakh is earmarked for provision of installations of solar Power in the existing Government Buildings. Further, a sum of Rs.5,00,000/- is also earmarked for Solid Waste Management for purchase of Tri-cycles (Manual / motorized)

and push carts with collection Bins for collection, segregation and safe disposal of household garbage as per local requirement.

From the remaining amount of Rs.42,50,000/- under Tied Component, the MLA can choose one or more of the following works for any amount according to his or her choice, subject to the overall ceiling of Rs. 42,50,000/-

a) In Rural Areas

1. Installation of Solar Street Lights.
2. Upgradation of Gravel / WBM Roads to BT Standard
3. Renewal of badly worn-out BT roads (laying of BT layer only with filling up of potholes, if necessary)
4. Laying of Cement concrete Roads
5. Provision of buildings and / or compound walls for Government and Local Body Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Government Veterinary Hospitals and also for Government Schools, Panchayat Union Schools, Adi Dravidar Schools, Kallar

Reclamation Schools, Government Colleges and Government Hostels.

6. Provision of infrastructure facilities to Government Special Schools for the differently abled and Government Orphanages.
7. Construction of Bridges.
8. Provision of additional Burial Grounds / Cremation Grounds to the Village Panchayats not having such facilities.
9. Provision of compound wall / fencing in the burial grounds belonging to public wakfs registered with wakf Board. Since the wakf Board does not have any Engineering wing, this work may be entrusted with the Local Bodies concerned.

b) In Urban Areas

1. Installation of Solar Street Lights.
2. Upgradation of Gravel / WBM Roads to BT standard
3. Renewal of badly worn-out BT roads (laying of BT layer only with filling up of potholes, if necessary).

4. Laying of Cement Concrete Roads
5. Provision of buildings and / or compound walls for Government and Local Body Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Government Veterinary Hospitals and also for Government Schools, Panchayat Union Schools, Adi Dravidar Schools, Kallar Reclamation Schools, Government Colleges and Government Hostels.
6. Provision of infrastructural facilities to Government Special schools for the differently abled and Government Orphanages.
7. Construction of Bridges
8. Provision of infrastructure and compound wall facilities to Burial Grounds / Cremation Grounds.
9. Provision of Concrete Pavements with storm water drains, if so required.
10. Formation of new Public Parks.
11. Construction of Public Toilets.
12. Purchase of Jetrodding Machines and hydraulically operated sewerage machines.

13. Provision of compound wall / fencing in the burial grounds belonging to public wakfs registered with Wakf Board. Since the Wakf Board does not have any Engineering wing, this work may be entrusted with the Local Bodies concerned.

3.6.1.2. Works to be Taken Up Under Untied Component of Rs.87,50,000/-

Any works not falling within the following 'negative list / prohibited works' can be taken up under the Untied component of MLACDS. Works falling under the tied component also can be taken up under Untied Component of Rs.87,50,000/-.

3.6.1.3. Negative list / Prohibited works

The following works under the 'negative list / prohibited works' cannot be taken up under the MLACDS unless specifically included in the exceptions:

1. Construction of Office and Residential buildings belonging to Central and State Government, including Public Sector

Undertakings, Co-operatives and Societies.

Exception: i) Construction of Public Distribution Shops, Direct procurement Centres, Milk Producer's Co-operative Societies, Bulk Chilling Centres (ii) Construction of Maintenance Sheds, Compound Walls and Concrete Flooring for Bus Depots of State Transport Undertakings.

2. All renovation, maintenance and repair works.

Exception: Repair of houses constructed under Government schemes up to 31.12.2003 including houses of IAY, TAHDCO, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board can be taken up not exceeding Rs.25,000 per house. However, permission letter should be obtained from the TNSCB / TAHDCO before taking up the repair works.

3. Purchase of all movable items, equipments and furniture

Exception: (i) Purchase of furniture and equipments for Government Schools, Panchayat Union Schools, Adi Dravidar Schools, Kallar Reclamation Schools, Government Colleges, Government Hostels, Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centers and Government Veterinary Hospitals. (ii) Purchase of new ordinary buses towards replacement of condemned buses of State Transport Undertakings (as per the guidelines issued in G.O.(Ms.) No. 2552, Transport Department, Dt.: 26.9.1991). (iii) Purchase of Equipments for Repairs and Maintenance of Bus Depots of State Transport Undertakings and (iv) Purchase of aids and appliances for differently abled persons.

No manpower expenditure will be allowed under this scheme, while taking up the above activities.

4. Any work in Government aided and self financing Schools and Colleges.

Exception: Construction of class rooms, laboratories and toilets in 100%

Government aided and 100% Tamil medium schools can be taken up. If the school is partly self-financed and partly aided, or if it is partly Tamil Medium and partly English Medium, it is not eligible. The assistance to an eligible aided school should not exceed Rs.15 lakhs in a particular year. Once a Government aided school eligible as above has been assisted, irrespective of the amount assisted, it shall be ineligible for further assistance under this Scheme for a period of 3 years. For such cases, apart from Collector making his own enquiries, the following Certificate should also be obtained from the District Elementary Educational Officer or Chief Educational Officer of the district concerned before undertaking the works.

- (i) The School has 100% Tamil Medium Classes / Sections. There are no English Medium Sections.
- (ii) The School is 100% Government Aided School. No Self-financing course / classes are run in the above school in the

same campus or different campuses under the same management.

- 5. Assets for individual / family benefits.
- 6. All works involving Commercial establishments/units.
- 7. Grants and loans, contribution to any Central and State / UT Relief Funds.
- 8. Acquisition of land or any compensation for land acquired.
- 9. Reimbursement of any type of completed or partly completed works or items.
- 10. All revenue and recurring expenditure.
- 11. Works within the places of religious worship and on lands belonging to or owned by religious faiths / groups.
- 12. Desilting of Ponds, Ooraries, rivers, tanks, canals, channels and the like.
- 13. Gravel / WBM Roads (Roads up to BT standard only should be taken up)
- 14. Installation of High Mast Lights.

An overall allocation of 21% of the total allocation under MLACDS should be

made for the areas predominantly inhabited by SC/ST persons in rural and persons living in slums in urban areas.

The Government is empowered to modify any of the above guidelines based on the exigencies that may arise from time to time in the implementation of the schemes.

3.6.1.4. Implementation of MLACDS

In 2013-14, a sum of Rs.470.00 Crore has been allocated under the scheme and 15,421 works have been taken up so far. Out of this, 6596 works have been completed and the remaining works are under progress. The category wise details of works taken up during the year 2013-14 are given as chart separately.

For the year 2014-15 also, an allocation of Rs.470.00 crore will be provided under this Scheme.

3.7. Rural Buildings Maintenance and Renovation Scheme (RBMRS)

Continuous and proper maintenance of water supply assets and buildings of Rural Local Bodies should be done so as to have the full utilisation of the assets created in rural areas. With the above objective, the RBMRS was introduced. Accordingly, the assets such as Anganwadi Centers, Panchayat office buildings, Overhead tanks, Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women, etc., have been taken up for renovation under the Scheme.

During the year 2011- 12, renovation of 12,796 Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women was carried out exclusively under the Scheme with an allocation of Rs.170 crore and all the complexes have been brought back to usable condition. Similarly, during the year 2012-13, repair and renovation of Over Head Tanks, Ground Level Reservoirs and main pipelines were taken up with the allocation of Rs. 175.22 crore under the Scheme.

For the year 2013-14, repair and renovation of 38,036 rural assets were taken up at the estimate cost of Rs.212.75 crore.

3.8. Self Sufficiency Scheme

In order to encourage the community in collaborative decision-making and promote public participation in creation of community assets, this Government re-introduced the Self Sufficiency Scheme in 2011-12.

3.8.1. Selection of Works

1. The felt-need for taking up a work may originate from individuals, groups, institutions, public or private companies or from the community.
2. The District Collector shall receive the application from the public on the work identified and also the consent letter for contributing not less than one-third of the estimated cost.
3. Estimates will be prepared only after ascertaining eligibility as per the guideline provisions and the need and feasibility of the work proposed.
4. In case the requirement exceeds the allocation, the District Collector shall arrange the works in the order of priority and accord administrative sanction.

5. Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj shall receive major contribution from public or private companies for specific projects to be implemented across the State.

3.8.2. Execution of Works

Execution of works will be done by the Local Bodies or the Department concerned through tender as per the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act 1998.

To facilitate larger participation of the people in this Scheme, if the public or contributors opt to execute the work themselves or through their agency, willingness should be given by them in writing while applying for the work under Self Sufficiency Scheme. The District Collector will examine the request and permit the contributors or the agency to execute the works if the public contribution is 50% or more than the estimate of the work. But in case of desiltation of PWD tanks or desiltation of water sources of Rural and Urban Local Bodies, even if the public contribution is 50% or more, the work should be executed only through tender.

3.8.3. Scheme Implementation during 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14

An amount of Rs.100 crore each was allocated for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14 respectively, to take up works under the scheme. Out of the total amount, Rs.25 crore was earmarked and vested with the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj for providing additional funding to the districts and for sanction of special schemes. Out of the balance amount of Rs.75 crore after earmarking Rs.1 crore, i.e., 1% allocation for IEC, Rs.74 crore was released to the districts and Chennai Corporation on the basis of population.

From 2011-12 to 2013-14, a total of 6,842 useful community assets have been created.

Table 3.8.1
Some of the major components of works

Sl. No	Category	No. of Works		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Construction of School Buildings & Libraries	87	42	31
2	Purchase of furniture to Govt. & Pt. Union Schools	92	90	57
3	Purchase of Computers to Schools	127	25	22
4	Construction of Bridges & Culverts	93	60	119
5	Construction of Anganwadi & Kitchen Sheds	21	32	23
6	Creation of Water Supply sources	377	315	337
7	Upgradation of Roads	635	381	244
8	Construction of Community Centres & Public Distribution System Shops	64	39	69
9	Construction of Threshing Floors	8	3	11
10	Construction of Public Health Centres	5	4	6
11	Other Works	1,058	1,240	1,125
Total		2,567	2,231	2,044

3.8.4. Scheme Implementation during 2014-15

An amount of Rs. 100 crore will be allocated for implementation of the scheme during the year 2014-15.

3.9. Rural Infrastructure Scheme (RIS – STREAM II) – Stabilisation of MGNREGS Assets

To bridge the existing gap in the physical infrastructure in rural areas, which is critical for sustainable economic development, the Government is implementing the Rural Infrastructure Scheme with the aim of stabilising the assets created under MGNREGS.

Assets are being created in all the panchayats under MGNREGS. In order to stabilise these assets for the benefit of rural people, works will be undertaken under RIS-Stabilisation of MGNREGS Assets. During 2011-12 Rs.100 crore had been allotted for the stabilisation of Assets created under MGNREGS under State Finance Commission Grant. Likewise, during 2012-13, Rs.83.34

crore had been allotted. During 2013-14, Rs.100 crore, had been allotted for this Scheme.

The works under this scheme will be selected in the following priority:

- Construction and renovation of sluice, surplus weirs of MI Tanks/System Tanks/Non-system Tanks.
- All types of masonry works in the MI Tanks/Major Ooranes proposed under G.O.(1D).No.487, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SGS-3) Department, Dated 18.09.2012.
- Construction of RR masonry structure/retaining walls in MI tank/pond/orani/supply channel (only at vantage points)
- Construction of inlet/outlet structures in pond/oranies.
- Construction of bathing ghats in ponds/oranies.
- Cross drainage work/culvert across the desilted supply channel

The following masonry structures in the roads formed under MGNREGS can be taken up:

- Cross drainage work/small culverts.
- Retaining walls at vantage points
- Gravelling and consolidation of roads formed under MGNREGS

The details of works taken up under Rural Infrastructure Scheme during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are as follows:

Table 3.9.1

Details of works taken up under Rural Infrastructure Scheme for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14

Rs.in crores

Sl. No	Details	2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
		Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount
1	Stabilisation of MGNREGS Work	6,322	98.40	5,048	82.37	4,880	100.57

3.10. Envisioning Open Defecation Free Tamil Nadu by 2015

3.10.1. Vision of Honourable Chief Minister

One of the ten core themes of the Honourable Chief Minister's Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 aims at providing the best infrastructure services in India in terms of universal access to water and sanitation. The Honourable Chief Minister directed all District Collectors during the Collectors' Conference held on 17.12.2012 to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to ensure the goal of an open defecation free Tamil Nadu by 2015 and organize all stakeholders into a mass movement to root out this practice. This was again reiterated by Honourable Chief Minister during the Collector's Conference held on 11.12.2013.

The first and foremost task is to identify the sanitation gaps in the rural areas through a "Baseline Survey" and address the issues in a phased manner to achieve the goal of Open Defecation Free (ODF) Tamil Nadu by 2015. As per the guidelines issued by Government of India under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, the process of Baseline Survey has already been completed

for the preparation of Revised Project Implementation Plan (PIP). This Plan will provide the basis and act as a guide post for implementation of Sanitation Programmes and ultimately attain the ODF Status.

3.10.2. Baseline survey and Revised Action Plan

As per Baseline Survey conducted in 2013 for preparation of revised Project Implementation Plan under NBA, there are 95.41 lakh households in the rural areas out of which 52.68 lakh households are without toilets. In respect of 42.73 lakh households having toilets, in 13.02 lakh households the toilets already constructed were found to be defunct. Incentive was given only to BPL families ranging from Rs.500 to Rs.3,200 till 2011-12. Most of the individual household toilets constructed during initial years with low subsidy have become defunct. Hence, 65.70 lakhs households (52.68 lakh households without toilet and 13.02 lakh households with defunct toilet) have to be covered with toilet facilities.

3.10.3. Sanitation Programmes

3.10.3.1. Initiatives of State Government

The Honourable Chief Minister has pioneered the sanitation revolution in the State through various initiatives. The Integrated Women Sanitary Complexes constructed in all the then existing 12,618 Village Panchayats at the rate of one Complex in each panchayat during 2001-04 provided access to basic sanitation facilities for rural women and children. Clean Village Campaign introduced in 2003 provided a momentum to the sanitation coverage. The additional State share announced by Honourable Chief Minister in 2012 for construction of Individual Household Latrines under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan has given fillip to the Household toilet coverage. Similar to the sanitation facilities created for rural women, construction of Integrated Men Sanitary Complexes was also taken up in 2012-13.

3.10.3.2. Central Government Programme

The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) introduced in 1999 in Tamil Nadu was extended to all the Districts by 2004 to

accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas. The important components under this programmes are Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), Community Sanitary Complexes, School toilets, Anganwadi toilets, etc. The Programme was renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) and certain revision has been made in the guidelines with effect from 1.4.2012. The salient features of the Scheme is given in detail in 4.4 Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan under Chapter – 4 “Central Schemes”.

3.11. Renovation of Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women

This Government has been according top priority in the provision of sanitary facilities for women in the rural areas. Lack of sanitary facilities has severe health consequences, especially on women and they suffer in silence. Absence of sanitary facilities is primarily due to both poverty and cultural inhibitions, which had to be overcome. Therefore, it was of paramount importance to ensure privacy and safety to women besides improving general hygiene and health to the rural people.

Responding to the sanitation needs of women, the Government in 2001 decided to build Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women in all the then existing 12,618 Village Panchayats in the State, at an approximate area of 750 sq.ft. each. It was ensured that the selected sites were easily accessible to the rural women. Each complex had 14 water closets, 2 bathrooms, 1 pump room with pump set, 1 water tub and stone-paved washing facilities. Adequate water supply for washing and bathing requirements were also provided. The total users were identified and grouped for the purpose of allocation of individual toilets within the complex. The Village Panchayats provided electricity connection for water supply and lighting and the allotted families maintained the upkeep of the complex. The complexes were provided with incinerators for disposal of the sanitary napkins of the user women.

Initially, 385 Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women were constructed at the rate of 1 per Panchayat Union at a cost of Rs.2.00 lakh each. Between 2001 and 2004,

all the Village Panchayats in the State were covered under the Scheme with the enhanced unit cost of Rs. 2.25 lakh. However, most of the Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women were rendered unusable due to lack of attention for its maintenance during 2006-11.

As per the directions of the Honourable Chief Minister, 12,796 sanitary complexes which were in the State of disuse have been renovated at a cost of Rs.170 crore during 2011-12, thereby restoring the basic facilities for the rural women.

3.11.1. Maintenance of Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women

In order to ensure regular maintenance and usage of the Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women, User Groups have been formed for all the renovated Complexes from among the women Self Help Group members with the assistance of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women. These User Groups have also been trained to take up day to day maintenance of Complexes.

The expenditure towards current consumption charges for water supply and lighting, minor repair/maintenance work like maintenance of pump sets and cleaning of septic tanks are met out by the Village Panchayats from their General Fund.

To monitor the maintenance of the Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women, the District Collectors have constituted the District Level and Block Level Monitoring Committees. The above Committees deliberate on the functioning status of the complexes and take necessary follow up action.

3.12. Integrated Men Sanitary Complexes

Based on the demand raised by rural men for creation of sanitation facilities similar to Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women, the Honourable Chief Minister ordered the provision of Integrated Men Sanitary Complexes (IMSC), at the rate of two Complexes per Block during 2012-13. In Tamil Nadu, 770 Integrated Men Sanitary Complexes were constructed at a cost of Rs.35 crore.

The sites for construction of IMSCs were identified by the District Collectors taking into account the various parameters and local requirements like prevalence of open defecation, predominance of houses without toilets, availability of water supply, etc. The total area of the Complex is 570 sq.ft. Each complex has 8 toilets in which one toilet is provided with western closet for the benefit of the aged/differently abled and one is a baby friendly toilet. Separate area for bathing, water tub and stone-paved washing facilities are also provided. Exclusive water supply is ensured in each Complex for sustainability and usage. User Groups are formed and are involved from the construction stage itself. Similar to the maintenance of Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women, these User Groups will take up the day to day maintenance. Periodical maintenance will be done by the Village Panchayats concerned. Corporate bodies and NGOs are also encouraged to take part in the maintenance of these complexes along with the User Groups.

During 2013-14, the Collectors concerned have identified the sites and have taken up IMSCs on need basis in 519 Village Panchayats.

3.13. Bio-digester linked Community Green Sanitary Complexes

The Government have ordered construction of 25 Bio-digester linked Green Community Sanitary Complexes in Rural areas and allocated Rs.113 lakhs at the rate of Rs.4.50 lakh per Complex for the year 2013-14. In Green Sanitary Complexes, the Human excreta are let into Bio-digester where it is digested through anaerobic microbial process and only clean water is let out which can be recycled for flushing purpose.

The District Collectors concerned have identified sites in areas with high prevalence of open defecation, bus stands, tourist places, etc. and have commenced the construction of Complexes in 25 places. The Bio-digesters will be installed in these complexes by the qualified technology holders.

This innovative method of waste disposal taken up on pilot basis is expected to be environmental friendly, result in water savings, easy for construction & maintenance and sustainable.

3.14. Clean Village Campaign

This Government launched "Clean Village Campaign" in 2003 in order to create a momentum to bring about a sanitary revolution in the State. The Clean Village Campaign encompassed all activities taken up in the village for environmental sanitation. Eliminating the practice of open defecation, Water conservation and waste water re-use, Solid waste management are the important components of Clean Village Campaign. The strategy is focused on mobilizing the community through intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities with the involvement of Village Panchayats and various other departments. The Village Panchayats which were free from open defecation and with clean environment were eligible to be nominated for a cash award of Rs.5.00 lakh by the State. The Government

disbursed awards every year to 15 such Village Panchayats as a "Cash and Recognition Incentive".

The Award which was shelved in 2006 was revived and re-introduced in 2011-12 with an annual allocation of Rs.1.55 crore for giving cash award of Rs.5 lakh for 31 selected Village Panchayats, at the rate of one Village Panchayat from each district.

The Presidents of 31 Village Panchayats selected for the year 2011-12 were given the cash award of Rs.5 lakh and citation by Honourable Chief Minister during the function held at Chennai on 25.6.2013.

For the year 2012-13, proposals were received from all the 31 District Collectors who have recommended 87 Village Panchayats for the Award. These proposals were scrutinized and 31 Village Panchayats, one Village Panchayat from each district will be selected for the Award by Government. Similar exercise is being carried out for 2013-14 also. This scheme will be continued in 2014-15.

3.15. State Level Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign to achieve open defecation free status

The Government vide G.O.(D) No.147 Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (CGS-1) Department, dated 3.4.2013 have ordered the Rollout of massive State Level Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign to achieve open defecation free status for the State of Tamil Nadu and approved various IEC materials such as Posters, Audio Jingles, Brochures, Leaflets, Kiosk, etc. These materials have been developed with the support of UNICEF through a specialized media agency.

In this connection, a State Level Workshop on Rolling out Communication Campaign for Achieving Open Defecation Free Tamil Nadu was held on 29.6.2013 and the schedule for rollout of the awareness campaign was released by the Vice-Chairperson of the State Planning Commission. During the above State Level Workshop, the participants viz., Project Directors of DRDA, Project Officers of Mahalir Thittam and District Project Managers of Pudhu

Vaazhvu Project from all the Districts have been sensitized on the modalities of successful rollout of IEC campaign.

The Campaign organized in two phases, namely, Teaser Phase (containing messages that are expected to raise the curiosity of the readers) and Reveal Phase (containing messages on the importance of sanitation). Teaser Phase commenced on 25.7.2013 and ended by 31.7.2013. Reveal Phase commenced by 1.8.2013 and was done through different media, simultaneously. Reinforcement of Sanitation awareness messages are being done through other Inter-Personal Communication (IPC) materials such as Leaflets, Wall Paintings, Brochures, Flip Charts, etc. The District Collectors are involving the various stakeholders like, Self Help Groups, Habitation Level Federation / Panchayat Level Federation, Community Resource Persons, Community Professionals, Sanitation Messengers, Bharat Nirman Volunteers, School Students, etc., in this massive campaign so that the message of sanitation is taken to every rural household in order to generate the

desired positive impact of attaining open defecation free Tamil Nadu.

Demand generated among the households not having toilets as per NBA baseline survey is being monitored through the software developed with the support of NIC, Chennai.

3.15.1. Inter-Personal Communication

Sanitation Messengers have been engaged in the Village Panchayats to motivate the village community through interpersonal communication and door to door contact to attain the sanitation goals. The image of Sanitation Messengers is to be projected in the Village Panchayat as a high profile key functionary and a link between the Village Panchayat and the Block Panchayat/District Administration. 15,769 Sanitation Messengers have been inducted in all the 12,524 Village Panchayats. Most of these Sanitation Messengers are Women, identified from among the Self Help Groups/Panchayat Level Federations, Community Resource Persons, Bharat Nirman Volunteers, MGNREGS Worksite facilitators, etc. Induction Training was also

given to the Sanitation Messengers. Considering the role and responsibilities visualised in the guidelines, they are expected to be in a better position to exert the peer group pressure that is required to inculcate good sanitary practices among the rural folk.

3.15.2. Inter-Departmental Convergence

As per the instructions of the Honourable Chief Minister, it is imperative to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to ensure the goal of an open defecation free Tamil Nadu by 2015 and organize all stakeholders into a mass movement to root out this practice. In order to ensure the coverage of 65.70 lakh households (52.68 lakh households without toilet and 13.02 lakh households with defunct toilet) with toilet facilities in a time bound manner, it is utmost essential to converge and synergize the impact of various Government programmes with the effective involvement of various stakeholders like, Self Help Groups, Habitation Level Federation / Panchayat Level Federation, Community Resource Persons, Bharat Nirman Volunteers, School Teachers, Students, Doctors, Village Health Nurses, Anganwadi

Workers, PDS staff, etc., in the Inter-Personal Communication and promotion of Sanitation activities. Hence, the participation of field functionaries and village level officials of various departments is essential to carry forward this awareness campaign movement into a mass movement to achieve the goal of open defecation free Tamil Nadu by 2015.

It is an established fact that poor sanitation is the main reason for various illnesses that affect human community. Children may get denied access to quality education and adults may forego their earning potential. It thus impoverishes the poor and downtrodden further by affecting their economic well-being. Though open defecation causes severe health hazards, hitherto no linkage of eligibility with social commitment of the beneficiaries for availing incentives under various department schemes has been envisaged. Further, the existing strategies may not be able to create the desired results of achieving the open defecation free status in a time bound manner. Therefore, it calls for convergence of activities of various

Government departments like Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare, School Education, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, etc., to achieve the goal of Open Defecation Free State. This can be addressed by synchronizing and synergizing the efforts of various departments of the Government aiming at bringing welfare to the rural people. Hence, it is proposed to utilize the opportunities available through inter-departmental convergence in order to achieve our Honourable Chief Minister's vision of "open defecation free Tamil Nadu by 2015".

3.16. Solid and Liquid Waste Management Scheme in Rural areas

The Honourable Chief Minister announced the implementation of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in rural areas with an allocation of Rs.150 crore. The Government have issued detailed guidelines in this regard vide G.O.(Ms) No.116, RD & PR (CGS-1) Department dated 4.9.2013.

This will enable the Village Panchayats to take up various solid and liquid waste management activities like segregation and

disposal of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes, disposal of liquid wastes and recycling of waste water and construction of compost pits, vermi-composting and bio-gas plants on a massive scale. The conversion of waste into resources like manure, cooking gas, electricity, etc., through solid waste management activities is expected to provide good economic returns to the Panchayats. Similar to using waste plastic for laying plastic roads, Self Help Groups are being motivated to take up solid waste management as an economic activity in rural areas.

Hence, establishment of Solid Waste Management facilities will not only enable the rural local bodies to maintain the villages clean but also will augment their revenue resources and help in attaining energy security. This is the first time such comprehensive effort in this direction, specifically for rural areas, with separate fund allocation has been taken up by any State in the Country.

In this connection, orientation training was conducted by a panel of experts for the District level officers involved in Preparation

and implementation of SLWM Projects on 19.10.2013 at State Institute of Rural Development, Maraimalainagar. The Capacity building exercise will be continuous in order to educate the stakeholders on the various technology options and to replicate successful models. Similarly, continuous monitoring and evaluation will be taken up at District Level and through the Experts at State Level to ensure sustainability of the projects.

3.16.1. District Level Solid and Liquid Waste Management Committee

A District SLWM Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the District Collector to identify, formulate and recommend the Solid and Liquid Waste Management Projects for approval of the State Level Committee and oversee the implementation and monitor the performance of the sanctioned projects.

The District SLWM Committees have so far identified 144 Village Panchayats for implementation of Solid and Liquid Waste Management Projects and have submitted Detailed Project Reports.

3.16.2. Scheme Implementation during 2014-15

It has been proposed to implement the scheme with an allocation of Rs.200 crore during 2014-15.

3.17. Socio Economic Development Programme

In the year 2003-04, Socio Economic Development Programme was launched in the backward districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri to curb the rise of Naxalite elements. Under this Scheme, works such as providing water heaters & solar lights to BC & ADW hostels and Government Tribal residential Schools, formation of mini honey processing unit, supply of sports materials to naxel infested villages, furniture & fittings to libraries, books to the newly established libraries, coaching youth for preparation of competitive examinations, wage employment linked skill and soft skill training to youth, training for uniformed services to youth, formation of cluster level diary units, supply of agricultural implements for MGNRES workers and SHG members etc. are taken up.

During the year 2013-14 Rs.700.00 Lakh and Rs. 50.00 Lakh has been allotted to Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts respectively.

Out of the above allocation, various training programmes, individual assistance and creation of community assets are taken up in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts.

For 2014-15 also, a sum of Rs. 7.5 Crore has been allotted under this scheme.

The details of works taken up under Socio Economic Development Programme during the year 2013-14 are as follows:

Dharmapuri District

1. Provision of Water heaters & Solar lights to BC & ADW hostels and Government Tribal Residential Schools.
Water Heaters - 104 Nos.
Solar Lights - 104 Nos.
2. Supply of bee keeping boxes @ 4 boxes per beneficiary-200 beneficiaries
3. Supply of Sports Materials -2005 Nos.

4. Providing furniture and fittings to libraries - 2 Nos.
5. (a). Training to youth for preparation of competitive Examinations – 1 batch
 (b).Wage employment linked skill trainings to youth – 1 batch
 (c). Training for uniformed services to youth – 1 batch
6. Supply of agricultural implements for MGNREGS beneficiaries and SHG members– 6000 Nos.

Krishnagiri District

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------|
| 1. Street Lights | - | 69 Nos. |
| 2. Water supply works | - | 16 Nos. |
| 3. Formation of CC road | - | 6 Nos. |
| 4. Drainage | - | 4 Nos. |

3.18. Thane Housing Scheme

The cyclonic storm “Thane” which hit the State in December 2011 had damaged lakhs of houses and also affected the livelihoods of lakhs of families. The Government of Tamil Nadu, on the instruction of Hon’ble Chief Minister, acted swiftly and ordered for a wide

range of immediate restoration measures and completed the immediate relief works in record time. However, there was a need to provide permanent houses for the people who had lost their huts which were completely damaged by “Thane” cyclone.

Hence, the Government had launched a ‘**Thane Housing Scheme**’ for the benefit of the people affected by the most severe cyclonic storm in the rural areas of Cuddalore and Villupuram Districts. The Government ordered for the construction of 1 lakh concrete houses at a cost of Rs. 1,000 crore to replace damaged houses in the Thane Cyclone affected Districts of Cuddalore (90,000 houses) and Villupuram (10,000 houses).

3.18.1. Salient features of the Scheme

- Rural families which have been affected by THANE cyclone are eligible for Housing assistance.
- Each house have an area of 200 square feet.
- Every house have a living room, kitchen and toilet including provision for Rain

Water Harvesting structure. The toilet component would be provided separately under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) funds.

- The unit cost is Rs. 1.00 lakh per house and fully funded by the State Government.
- Construction of houses is being done by the beneficiaries themselves.
- Houses are constructed either in situ (replacing his/her existing dwelling structure) or in the land owned by the beneficiary elsewhere in the Village Panchayat. No land acquisition is envisaged under this Scheme.
- Country bricks, Fly ash bricks and Hollow block bricks can be used for construction as desired by the beneficiaries based on Public Works Department approved data.

Out of the total 1 lakh houses sanctioned at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore, 90,000 houses are allotted to Cuddalore District and 10,000 houses are allotted to Villupuram District and the works are in progress.

4. CENTRAL SCHEMES

4. CENTRAL SCHEMES

4.1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is the only anti-poverty programme which has a legal backing by the MGNREG Act, 2005. The core objective of this scheme has been outlined as provision of 100 days of employment and the creation of durable asset was provided as an auxiliary objective. But as per the revised Schedule-I of the MGNREG Act, the scheme objectives have been outlined as follows:

- a) Providing not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability;
- b) Strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor;
- c) Proactively ensuring social inclusion

- d) Strengthening of Panchayat Raj Institutions

In Tamil Nadu, the scheme was first notified on 2.2.2006 in 6 districts of the State. In the second phase from 1.4.2007 onwards the scheme was extended to 4 other districts and in the third phase i.e from 1.4.2008 onwards the scheme was extended to all the remaining 21 districts.

4.1.1. Salient features of the scheme

1. Provision of 100 days of guaranteed wage employment for all registered households in the Village Panchayat, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled labour.
2. The Central Government bears 100% wage cost of unskilled manual labour material cost including wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers is borne by Central Government and by State Government in the ratio of 75:25
3. No contractors or machineries are allowed.

4. The wage and material component ratio have to be maintained at 60:40.
5. Out of the total works sanctioned, 50% should be allotted to Village Panchayats.
6. Adult members of rural households willing to do unskilled manual work may register orally or in writing with the Village Panchayat.
7. The Village Panchayat will issue a job card within 15 days and will issue a dated receipt, which will stand as a guarantee to provide employment within 15 days.
8. If the distance of worksite exceeds 5 kms, additional wage of 10% of existing wage rate is payable to meet the cost towards the additional transportation and living expenses. However, in Tamil Nadu worksites are being fixed in such a way that works are available within a radius of 2 kms.
9. The wages for unskilled labour has been fixed based on the Rural Schedule of Rates. Schedule of Rates for wages of

- unskilled labourers is so fixed that an adult person working for eight hours which include an hour of rest (i.e., 7 hours of work) will earn wages equal to wage rate.
10. Wages are equal to both men and women and the notified wage rate for 2014-15 is Rs.167/-.
 11. Disbursement of wages is normally done on weekly basis and should be paid within 15 days.
 12. One third of the beneficiaries should be women.
 13. Work site facilities such as drinking water, first aid kit, shade etc., are being provided.
 14. Grama Sabha conducts the social audit in respect of MGNREGS through Village Social Auditors. A Toll free Helpline (1299) has also been provided as part of Grievance redressal mechanism
 15. Under Section 12 of the MGNREG Act, Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted State Employment Guarantee Council to advise, evaluate

and monitor the implementation of the scheme.

4.1.2 Permissible Works

The permissible works as per the GOI operational guidelines are as follows:

- I. Category A - PUBLIC WORKS RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: Water conservation and water harvesting structures, Watershed management works, Micro and minor irrigation works, Renovation of traditional water bodies, Afforestation, Tree plantation and Horticulture activities and Land development works in common land.
- II. Category B – COMMUNITY ASSETS OR INDIVIDUAL ASSETS FOR VULNERABLE SECTIONS : Works creating assets shall be prioritised on land or homestead owned by households belonging to the scheduled castes, other families below the poverty line, Women-headed households, Physically challenged headed households, beneficiaries of land

reforms, Beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana etc.,

These works include providing suitable infrastructure for irrigation including dug wells, farm ponds and other water harvesting structures, improving livelihoods through horticulture, sericulture, plantation, and farm forestry, development of fallow or waste lands etc., Unskilled wage component in construction of houses sanctioned under the Indira Awaas Yojana or such other State or Central Government Scheme, Creating Infrastructure for promotion of livestock such as, poultry shelter, goat shelter, piggery shelter, cattle shelter and fodder troughs for cattle and creating infrastructure for promotion of fisheries such as, fish drying yards, storage facilities and promotion of fisheries in seasonal water bodies on public land.

- III. Category C - COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING FOR NRLM COMPLIANT SELF HELP GROUPS: Common work sheds for livelihood activities of self-help groups.

IV. Category D- RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE:
Rural sanitation related works, Providing all-weather rural road connectivity to unconnected villages, construction of play fields, restoration of roads, restoration of public infrastructure including flood control and protection works, Construction of buildings for Gram Panchayats, women self-help groups' federations, cyclone shelters, anganwadi centres, village shandies and crematoria at the village or block level. Construction of Food Grain Storage Structures, Production of building material required for construction works under the Act as a part of the estimate of such construction works. Maintenance of rural public assets created under the Act; and

The District Programme Coordinator shall ensure that at least 60% of the works in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agricultural and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

Works which are non-tangible, not measurable, repetitive such as, removing grass, pebbles, agricultural operations, shall not be taken up.

4.1.3. Achievements during 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14

This Government was able to generate 33 crore persondays as against the target of 30.02 crore during 2011-12. Achievement during 2012-13 was 40.80 crore persondays. This achievement was inclusive of the persondays generated due to increase in number of days of employment from 100 days to 150 days due to drought. For the year 2013-14, the achievement in terms of persondays is 37.29 crore as against the target of 42.85 crore. The total expenditure under MGNREGS is Rs.4,114.29 crore of which Rs.3,808.24 crore has been paid as wages.

Tamil Nadu excelled in the performance of MGNREGS at National level during 2013-14 as detailed below:

Table 4.1.1

Performance of Tamil Nadu at National level during 2013-14

1.	Persondays Generation	:	With the Persondays generation of 37.29 crore, Tamil Nadu stands FIRST in the country.
2.	Expenditure on wages	:	With the expenditure of Rs.3,808.24 Crore on wages, Tamil Nadu stands FIRST in the country.
3.	Women Participation Rate	:	In percentage terms, Tamil Nadu occupies Second Place in the country (84%) after Kerala. But in absolute terms, Tamil Nadu stands FIRST with 30.70 Crore persondays generated by women as against 8.08 crore generated by Kerala.
4.	Average number of Days per Family	:	By providing 59 days of average number of persondays of employment per family as against the National Average of 47 persondays, Tamil Nadu stands FIRST in the Country.

4.1.4. Awards for MGNREGS

a) Awards for 2011-12

- During 2011-12, Government of India had selected 7 Districts in the Country for Best Performing District Award under MGNREGS. Out of the 7 Districts, **2 Districts from Tamil Nadu, viz., Thanjavur and Tiruchirapalli had bagged the Awards.**
- Likewise, 11 Village Panchayats from all over the Country were selected for Best Village Panchayat Award under MGNREGS. **Kadambadi Village Panchayat of Sulur Panchayat Union of Coimbatore District was one among them.**

b) Awards for 2012-13

- Awards for the Best performing States have been initiated for the first time under 3 categories during the year 2012-13. Out of these, **Tamil Nadu has bagged Best Performing State Award in the category of Social Inclusion.**

Further, Tamil Nadu is the only State to have been awarded under this category.

- During the year 2012-13, the **Best Performing District** Award has been bagged by **The Nilgiris District** under the category of Substantial Enhancement of Employment Opportunities in *Plantation Economy*.
- **Thanikkottagam Village Panchayat of** Vedaranyam Panchayat Union of Nagapattinam District has been awarded the **Best Village Panchayat** along with other 10 Village Panchayats at the National Level.

4.1.5. Initiatives during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14

4.1.5.1. Permission to take up more than one work in a Village Panchayat

Prior to 15.5.2011, only one worksite was permitted in each Village Panchayat at any given time. In order to provide more employment opportunities to MGNREGS workers, the habitations in a Village Panchayat are grouped into clusters in such a way that whenever the work is being executed in a

particular cluster, all the workers from the habitations of that particular cluster can come to the worksite. This system was started from October, 2011 onwards which increased the participation of workers in MGNREG works. With the introduction of Land Development Activities like Farm Ponds and Plantation works during 2012-13, the number of works in each cluster has also increased. This has resulted in an increase in the number of families participating in MGNREG works.

4.1.5.2. Drought Mitigation activities during 2012-13

- As a measure to mitigate the drought situation, the number of days of employment provided to a family had been increased from 100 to 150 days. During the period from 21.02.2013 to 31.03.2013, nearly 12.73 lakh households were provided employment beyond 100 days. These households received an additional wage of Rs.271 crores.
- Provision of Farm Ponds on individual farmer's lands were taken up as a

measure to provide employment during drought situation.

4.1.5.3. Special works for Differently Abled

- In order to implement the Provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 in MGNREGS, the Government of Tamil Nadu has ordered for special provisions for the differently abled vide G.O.(Ms).No.52, RD&PR (CGS-1) Department, Dated 25.6.2012.

As per the Government Order, the special activities for differently abled persons under MGNREGS are:

- Watermen / waterwomen at the worksite, Caretaker to look after children, assisting the worksite facilitator in premarking, Clearing uprooted jungle from the site (Only Scrubs, Light Jungle), Watering (wetting) the area to be desilted (especially in summer), Compacting the earth deposited on bund

by using spade, solid rods and earth breaking rods. Benching, leveling, Sectioning and sloping the bund

Special provisions for doing earth work related activities are:

- The Differently abled persons who are able to carry out physical work can be utilized for Earth work related activities like Jungle Clearance, Desilting work, planting and refilling and watering.

During 2012-13, 31.89 lakh persondays have been generated by differently abled persons and Rs.47.20 crore has been given as wages. During 2013-14, 40.41 lakh persondays have been generated by differently abled persons and Rs.59.81 crore has been given as wages.

4.1.5.4. Selection of works by using Satellite based Maps

- This Government has committed to generate satellite-based maps indicating the current status of water bodies (Tanks/Ooranies/Supply channels) in

comparison to the original capacity of the water bodies;

- With the help of Institute of Remote Sensing (IRS), Anna University resource map has been made available for all Districts. As a measure to restore the original capacity of the water bodies and to increase the water recharge, most of the works have been selected based on these satellite maps.
- On a pilot basis "System Tanks" have been taken up under MGNREGS, for renovation which includes repair and renovation of sluices, surplus weirs under Rural Infrastructure Scheme (RIS) of State Government.
- Renovation of major ooranies and water bodies have been ordered vide G.O.(1D).No.487, RD&PR (SGS-3) Department, Dated 18.09.2012, the text of which can be accessed through http://tnrd.gov.in/Central_Schemes/nregs_2012.html

4.1.5.5. Efforts to increase the Wage Rate

Prior to 15.05.2011, on many occasions, the beneficiaries got wages in the range of Rs.80/- to Rs.90/-. The Government had conducted mass awareness campaigns and has also undertaken wide publicity measures like 'Model Pits' in the worksite, awareness to the workers on the quantum of work to be done, training on pre-marking and measurement by Overseer, etc., Based on the awareness campaigns, the average wage rate had increased from Rs.90/- to Rs.105/- during 2012-13.

- Time and Motion Study has been conducted and a revised Rural Schedule of Rates (RSoR) was issued vide G.O(Ms).No.110, RD&PR (CGS-1) Department, Dated 15.11.2012.
- Due to the concrete efforts of the Department, the average wage rate has increased and most of the workers are getting full wage rate.

4.1.5.6. Land Development Activities

G.O.(Ms) No.61, RD&PR Dept., Dated 23.07.2012 permits individual land development activities on the lands belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes farmers, Small and Marginal farmers etc.

4.1.5.6.1. Provision of Farm Ponds on Individual Farmers Lands

The Honourable Chief Minister had announced on the floor of the Assembly that special provisions of livelihood would be made for the Drought affected Delta districts during 2012-13. Accordingly, a High level Committee appointed by the State Government visited the drought affected Delta Districts. One of the demands put forth to the committee by the farmers is the provision of farm ponds to mitigate the drought situation.

To fulfill the demands of the farmers, the Government vide G.O.Ms.No. 17, RD&PR (CGS-1) Department. dated 15.2.2013 had ordered for the formation of 15,000 Farm Ponds in the 8 Delta Districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Karur, Ariyalur, Pudukottai,

Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur and Cuddalore. Accordingly, formation of Farm Ponds have been taken up on the lands of farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Small and Marginal Farmers.

Based on the positive response from farmers, the Honourable Chief Minister had announced on the floor of the Assembly on 16.04.2013 that 50,000 Farm Ponds will be formed in Districts other than Delta districts at a cost of Rs.750 crore. Consequently farm ponds works are being undertaken in non delta districts.

4.1.6. Convergence Activities

4.1.6.1. Convergence with Rural Development Schemes

A. Convergence of MGNREGS with NBA

Based on the guidelines of Government of India, State Government has ordered for the Convergence of MGNREGS with Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) Scheme vide G.O.Ms.No.121, RD&PR Department dated 28.11.2012. Accordingly, Individual Household Latrine works and Solid & Liquid Waste Management

works are being undertaken under convergence with NBA.

Construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL)

- The Labour Component for construction of IHHLs is met under MGNREGS while the Material Component for the construction is provided under NBA.
- The Unit Cost for each Individual Household Latrine was fixed as Rs.11,100 which includes an assistance of Rs.4,500 from MGNREGS

B. Execution of IHHL works exclusively under MGNREGS

Till 2013 – 14, construction of IHHL had been taken up only in convergence with Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan Scheme. But as per G.O.(Ms) No.32, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department, dated 3.3.2014, construction of IHHL are being exclusively taken up under MGNREGS with an unit cost of Rs.10,000 per IHHL.

Solid Waste Management (Compost Pit):

Compost Pits for converting bio-degradable wastes into manures, highly beneficial in rural areas wherein lot of bio-degradable wastes are available, have been taken up under the scheme. Works have been taken up in 1,363 Village Panchayats and efforts have been undertaken to take up works in all 12,524 Village Panchayats during 2014-15.

C. Afforestation Activities

To increase green cover in villages and to create assets for Village Panchayats and for farmers, afforestation activities have been taken up in the identified Government / Common Lands, Village Panchayat lands and also on individual lands of the farmers. These activities will be continued during 2014-15.

D. Avenue Plantation under MGNREGS

Tree planting on either side of Village Panchayat Roads and Panchayat Union Roads have been taken up during 2013-14. Avenue plantation on either sides of Panchayat / Panchayat union roads and the roads laid

under PMGSY / NABARD will be taken up on a large scale during 2014-15.

E. Raising of Nurseries by Panchayats/ Panchayat Unions

To enable the Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions to take up afforestation activities, raising of Nurseries by the Panchayats/ Panchayat Unions themselves have been encouraged. Accordingly, Nurseries have been developed in the lands vested with Panchayats/Panchayat Unions in districts like Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri and Theni. Various types of seedlings raised in these districts are Neem, Pungan, Nattu Vagai, Nattu Puvarasu, Casuarina, Marutham, etc. Identification of land is being done in all the other districts to establish similar nurseries

F. Construction of Village Panchayat Service Centres and Block Panchayat Service Centres

As an initiative to empower rural people, construction of Village Panchayat Service Centres and Block Panchayat Service Centres have been taken up in 4,174 Village

Panchayats and 120 Block Panchayats during the financial year 2013-14.

4.1.6.2. Convergence with Other Departments

A. Convergence with Environment and Forest Department

Government has ordered to undertake Karuvel (*Acacia Nylotica*) Plantation in 4,000 Hectares of Panchayat/ Panchayat Union Tanks in convergence with Forest Dept. vide G.O.Ms.No.104, RD&PR Department, dated 9.11.2012. Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department and Environment & Forest Department jointly undertook the identification of sites of Panchayat/ Panchayat Union Tanks. Forest Department raised the Seedlings in their Nurseries and the Labour Component to raise the Nurseries was met from MGNREGS. Pitting and Planting activities have been carried out with MGNREGS workers under the supervision of the Forest Department officials. Karuvel

Plantation works have been completed in 4,000 Hectares.

B. Convergence with Fisheries Department

Interested farmers on whose lands farm ponds have been taken up were tied up with the Fisheries Department for providing fish fingerlings at subsidised rates. During 2013-14, farm ponds were taken up and in 1,700 ponds fingerlings have been stocked by the Fisheries Department.

C. Farm Ponds in Sericulture Farms

The Honourable Chief Minister had announced on the floor of the Assembly during 2013-14 that 50 Farm Ponds will be formed in Government Silk Farms of the Department of Sericulture in 16 districts. Accordingly, Farm Ponds have been identified on all Government Silk Farms as a measure to recharge the well and to help raise the seedlings of mulberry plants (*Morus Indica*) for distribution to farmers for feeding the local silk worm (*Bombyx Mori*). During 2013-14, 61 works have been taken up and completed.

4.1.7. Payment of Wages through Banks

It has been decided by this Government to dispense with the existing practice of disbursing the wages to the workers in cash. Accordingly, to curtail any scope for malpractices and to separate the wage disbursement agency from implementing agency the wages to the beneficiaries has been disbursed through banks.

During 2012-13, Payment of wages through Banks to the workers in 385 Village Panchayats at the rate of one Village Panchayat per Panchayat Union was started on pilot basis and by the end of 2012-13, 6,480 Village Panchayats had been covered by Bank Payments.

4.1.7.1. Payment of Wages through e-FMS

As a step ahead of Bank Payments, which could not negate delay in payments, Payment of wages to MGNREGS workers have been initiated through the electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) during the year 2013-14.

e-FMS is an automated system through which the wages will be credited to the individual workers account from the State through 4 Nodal Banks.

e-FMS has been first piloted in Kattankolathur block of Kancheepuram District on 17.06.2013 for 4 Village Panchayats.

Now e-FMS has been gradually rolled out in all the 12,524 Village Panchayats of 385 Blocks in the State.

4.1.8. Proposed new initiatives in 2014-15

- The following new initiatives have been proposed to be taken up in the implementation of the Scheme during 2014-15:
 - Convergence of MGNREGS with Indira Awaas Yojana, Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme (CMSPGHS) and other State Sponsored Housing schemes such as Thane Cyclone Housing Scheme implemented by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in which the unskilled wage component

will be met from the MGNREG Scheme.

- Based on Para 4(1) of the revised Schedule I of MGNREG Act, the following infrastructural activities will be undertaken.
- Common Infrastructure facilities
 - Construction of buildings for Village Panchayats
 - Construction of buildings for Women Self Help Groups
 - Anganwadi Centres
 - Construction of Food Grain Storage Structures
 - Creation of Durable infrastructure required for Bio-fertilizers and Post-harvest facilities including pucca storage facilities for agricultural products
 - Common Worksheds for livelihood activities of SHGs
 - Construction of Play fields
 - Construction of Cyclone shelters
 - Construction of Village Shandies
 - Construction of Crematoria
 - School Toilets
 - Anganwadi Toilets

➤ Individual assets for Vulnerable Groups

- Poultry Shelter
- Goat Shelter
- Cattle Shelter
- Fodder troughs for cattle

As indicated by GoI, as part of IEC, various means of communication including visual / audio media, installation of information boards in the Village Panchayats / Habitations / work sites indicating details of the scheme, details of work and quantum of works to be done will be undertaken. This will make the workers aware of scheme guidelines, entitlement and duties of the workers.

4.1.9. Social Audit

4.1.9.1. Social Audit

Social Audit is an audit by the people rather than by officials or external groups. In addition to financial aspects, it looks at process and social, equity & performance aspects. It is an Information, Education & Communication (IEC) tool, which enforces transparency and

accountability and promotes participation of stakeholders in all the stages (planning, design, implementation and evaluation) of development initiatives. Recognizing its importance, MGNREGA mandated Social Audit by the Grama Sabha and the MGNREG Audit of Scheme Rules, 2011 laid down the procedure for systematic conduct of Social Audit.

4.1.9.2. Establishment

1. Based on the MGNREG Audit of Scheme Rules 2011, the Government of Tamil Nadu issued orders in G.O.(Ms.)No.64, RD& PR Department dated 27.7.2012, for the formation of an independent Social Audit Unit and specified the necessary staff along with their roles & responsibilities.
2. Subsequently, one Director in the cadre of Additional Director, two Joint Directors and one Assistant Director from the Department of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department are working in the Social Audit Unit.

3. The Government of Tamil Nadu, vide G.O.(Ms.)No.125 RD & PR Department, dated 21.12.2012, approved the by-laws for the formation of 'Social Audit Society of Tamil Nadu (SASTA)' and accordingly, the Social Audit Society of Tamil Nadu was registered on 9th January 2013, under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.
4. The Director is assisted by one Social Audit Specialist & a team of State Level Monitors.

The 1st Governing Body Meeting of the Social Audit Society was convened on 19th February 2013 in which decisions with regard to various functional aspects were taken. The Governing Body also approved a budget outlay of Rs. 54.11 crores for 2013-14.

4.1.9.3. Social Audit Process

To facilitate Social Audit in each Panchayat, 5 Village Panchayat Resource Persons (VPRPs) shall be selected from among the MGNREGS labourers who have completed a minimum of 25 days of work and passed 8th

standard. After training, the Village Panchayat Resource Persons facilitate Social Audit in a Panchayat other than the one they live in. The VPRPs verify the records at the Panchayat and Block levels, visit the worksites and verify the field measurements with reference to the Measurement Book, visit individual job card holders at their houses and verify the NMR entries and compile the findings and then present the findings in a Grama Sabha. SASTA staff will facilitate this process in all the Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu once in 6 months.

4.1.9.4. Recruitment through Man Power Agency

To hire staff, as envisaged in the G.O.(Ms.)No.64, RD & PR Department, Dated 27.7.2012 an 'Expression of Interest' followed by Technical & Financial proposals were called from eligible Man Power Agencies as per the provisions of Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998. The proposals were scrutinized and T&M Services Consulting Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai was entrusted with the recruitment of 44 District Resource Persons (DRPs), 770 Block Resource Persons (BRPs) &

31 District Support Staff. A total of 12,984 online applications were received and 8,004 candidates appeared for the written examination conducted in 9 centres across the State. Following the interview conducted on 23/10/2013 and 27/10/2013, the final list of candidates has been prepared as per the existing communal rotation and reservation policy.

4.1.9.5. Capacity Building

The Social Audit Society of Tamil Nadu has provided exhaustive training on the importance, necessity and process of Social Audit to RD & PR Department officials, Panchayat Presidents and Panchayat Secretaries. So far, 5 training programmes covering 36,828 stakeholders have been conducted.

SASTA has brought out 5 training manuals, 2 for Training of Trainers Programmes, 1 for Village Panchayat Presidents, 1 for Village Panchayat Secretaries and 1 for RD & PR Department officials.

Tamil Nadu has over 1,00,000 Village Panchayat Ward Members. Total Village

Panchayat Resource Persons (VPRPs) will be around 60,000. To sensitize the Ward Members and train the VPRPs, the Governing Body approved for engaging Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as training & support organizations. The shortlisting of the NGOs is in progress as per the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and will be completed shortly.

4.1.9.6. Model Social Audits

This Society has conducted 19 model Social Audits in 19 districts and the findings were communicated to the implementing authorities on completion of the Audits. These model Social Audits have led to increased awareness about the scheme & workers entitlements, improvements in work measurements and quality of assets created, systematic training for worksite supervisors, better maintenance of records both online and offline, fund provisions for providing worksite facilities at the Panchayat level, reduction of delay in wage payments, hiring of additional engineering staff and sensitized the officials

about the necessity of transparency and accountability.

After completing the recruitment of staff (44 DRPs, 770 BRPs and 31 supporting staff), intensive training will be imparted to them and then Social Audit of all Panchayats will commence. The Budget Estimate for 2014-15 is Rs.46.84 crore.

4.2 Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

Indira Awaas Yojana is a Centrally sponsored housing scheme which was part of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. From the year 1997-1998 onwards, the Scheme became an independent scheme. The objective of the scheme is construction of free houses to members of the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, Freed Bonded Labourers in Rural areas and also to non SC/ST rural poor living below poverty line. The beneficiaries are selected from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) list approved by the Grama Sabha. At least 60% of the total IAY allocation during a financial year shall be allocated for construction/ upgradation of dwelling units for SC/ST BPL rural households. A maximum 40% of allocation is

for non- SC/ST BPL rural households. 3% of the above categories should be allocated for physically and mentally challenged persons. It has also been directed that 15% of the beneficiaries should be selected from amongst minorities. The funding for the scheme is shared by the Centre and State in the ratio 75:25.

Up to 2011-12, the unit cost of the house constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana was Rs.45,000/-. Out of this, the Central share was Rs.33,750/- and the State's share was Rs.11,250/-. The state provided Rs.55,000/- as state additionality for RCC roofing and thus the unit cost was Rs. 1 lakh in our state. Hence, during 2011-12 and 2012-13, the unit cost of IAY house in Tamil Nadu was Rs.1 lakh of which the State Government alone had contributed Rs.66,250/- (66.25%) and the Centre's Share was Rs. 33,750/- (33.75%). During 2013-14, the Government of India had enhanced the unit cost of the house under Indira Awaas Yojana from Rs.45,000/- to Rs.70,000/- out of which Rs.52,500 is Central Share and Rs.17,500 is

the State Share. **Accordingly, State Government also increased the unit cost to Rs.1.20 lakh per house by providing Rs.50,000/- for RCC Roofing as state additionality vide G.O.No.99, RD&PR (CGS1) dated 02.08.2013.** Hence for the year 2013-14, the unit cost of IAY house in Tamil Nadu is Rs.1.20 lakh of which the State Government alone contributes Rs.67,500/- (56.25%) and the Centre's share is Rs. 52,500/- (43.75%). Still the Government of India unit cost is less than the unit cost approved by Tamil Nadu. The toilet component of IAY house is taken up under NBA in convergence with MGNREGS. During the financial year 2013-14, 88436 houses have been taken up at a cost of Rs.1061.23 crore.

In addition to regular Indira Awaas Yojana, special project of 34,380 houses were sanctioned by Government of India to Cuddalore (22,707) and Villupuram Districts (11,673) with a total cost of Rs.412.56 crore.

For the year 2014-15, 53,429 houses will be constructed under the Scheme at a cost of Rs.641.15 crore. It is proposed to converge IAY

with MGNREGS by providing 90 person days which will amount to Rs.15,000 per house.

4.3. Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a scheme with an aim to provide infrastructure facilities and bridging the gaps existing in the infrastructure facilities in Rural and Urban areas thereby enabling wholesome development. From the year 2011-12 onwards, Government of India has enhanced the allocation under MPLADS from Rs.2.00 crore to Rs.5.00 crore per annum per Member of Parliament. With respect to Tamil Nadu, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is the nodal department for implementation of the scheme. In Tamil Nadu MPLADS is being implemented for the 39 Lok Sabha MPs and 19 Rajya Sabha MPs. From the year 2011-12 onwards, the administrative expenses have also been increased from 0.5% to 2% of the annual entitlement of Rs.5.00 crore. The District Collectors are authorised to give administrative sanction for the works proposed

by the MPs. The guidelines contain an illustrative list of works that may be taken up and a 'negative list of works' which are not permitted under this scheme. All maintenance works of any type like desilting of ponds, rivers, tanks, canals, etc, are banned under MPLADS and cannot be taken up under the Scheme.

During the year 2013-14, the total allocation under this scheme is Rs.295 crore. Based on the proposal received, so far 5,575 works have been taken up with an estimate cost of Rs.265.57 crore.

Table 4.3.1
2013 – 14 works taken up

Sl.No	Category of works	No.of works	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Buildings	1066	78.77
2.	Community Development and Irrigation works	874	53.15
3.	Equipments	772	29.00
4.	Roads	1579	72.95
5.	Threshing Floor	51	0.92
6.	Water Supply	1233	30.78
	Total	5575	265.57

4.4. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan

In order to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the broader goal to eradicate the practice of open defecation, a comprehensive programme called 'Total Sanitation Campaign' was launched by Government of India in 1999, to cover all households with sanitation facilities and promote hygiene behaviour for overall improvement of health and sanitation in rural areas. The programme is demand-driven and people-centered. The key intervention areas are Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), School Sanitation & Hygiene Education, Community Sanitary Complex and Anganwadi Toilets. The Scheme laid strong emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), capacity building and hygiene education for effective behaviour change, with the involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), etc.

The Total Sanitation Campaign which was introduced in Cuddalore and Coimbatore districts, initially in 1999 was extended in

phases to all other districts in Tamil Nadu by 2004.

4.4.1. Salient features of the scheme

The Scheme was renamed as 'Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan' (NBA) and revised guidelines was issued by Government of India with effect from 1.4.2012. The salient features of the revised guidelines are:

- Accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Nirmal Bharat by 2022 with all Village Panchayats in the Country attaining open defecation free status.
- Incentive as provided under the scheme for construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) has been extended to all Below Poverty Line (BPL) Households and Above Poverty Line (APL) Households restricted to SCs/STs, Small and Marginal farmers, Landless Labourers with homestead, Differently Abled and Women Headed households.
- The incentive amount for construction of one unit of IHHL has been increased

from Rs.3,200 to Rs.4,600 (Rs.5,100 for difficult and hilly areas). The Central share out of this is Rs.3,200 (Rs.3,700 in case of hilly and difficult areas) and State Government share is Rs.1,400. Minimum beneficiary share shall be Rs.900. Over and above the prescribed State share of Rs.1,400, Government of Tamil Nadu is providing additional State share of Rs.1,100.

- The schools which are not yet covered under SSA and Anganwadi Centres in the rural areas will be provided with proper sanitation facilities and proactive promotion of hygiene education and sanitary habits among students will be undertaken.
- Appropriate convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been provided. The assistance available under MGNREGS is Rs.4,500 for each IHHL.
- All houses constructed by the beneficiaries under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) or any other State rural housing

scheme which did not have toilets shall also be eligible for the incentive for creation of sanitation facilities.

- Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) may be taken in the proposed and existing Nirmal Gram Panchayats. The total assistance for SLWM projects under NBA shall be worked out on the basis of total number of households in each Village Panchayat, subject to a maximum of:
 - i. Rs.7 lakh upto 150 households.
 - ii. Rs.12 lakh upto 300 households.
 - iii. Rs.15 lakh upto 500 households and
 - iv. Rs.20 lakh for a Village Panchayat having more than 500 Households

The sharing of cost among the Centre, State and Beneficiary contribution is as follows:

Table 4.4.1
Sharing of cost among the Centre, State and Beneficiary contribution
(in Rupees)

Category	Central Share	State Share	Beneficiary contribution	Total
IHHL	3,200* (assistance under MGNREGS Rs.4,500)	2,500**	900	6,600 (including assistance under MGNREGS Rs.11,100)
School Toilet	24,500 (70%)	10,500 (30%)	-	35,000
Anganwadi Toilet	5,600 (70%)	2,400 (30%)	-	8,000
Sanitary Complex	1,20,000 (60%)	60,000 (30%)	20,000 (10%)	2,00,000
SLWM	70%	30%	-	

*The Central Share would be Rs.3,700 in the case of Hilly and difficult areas.

**It includes additional State Share of Rs.1,100

4.4.2. Implementation of IHHL Works

Individual Household Latrine works can be taken up taken up under two streams:

- (A) IHHL works can be taken up under NBA in convergence with MGNREGS, (or)
- (B) IHHL works can be taken up independently under MGNREGS.

(A) Implementation of Sanitation Works in Convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

Government of India issued detailed guidelines for taking up works relating to access to sanitation facilities under MGNREGS in June-September, 2012. Accordingly, detailed guidelines were issued by the State Government vide G.O. (Ms.) No.121 RD & PR (CGS-1) Department, dated 28.11.2012 permitting convergence of MGNREGS with Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), for construction of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) and taking up Solid and Liquid Waste Management. Detailed guidelines can be downloaded from the department's website www.tnrd.gov.in (Also please refer 4.1.6.1.A).

During the year 2013-14, 3,13,402 IHHLs have been constructed. It is proposed to

take up 7,69,923 IHHL under NBA in convergence with MGNREGS during 2014-15 with an allocation of Rs.854.62 crore.

(B) Implementation of IHHL Works independently under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

Government of India vide Notification dated 20.12.2013 have amended Schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, whereby, Individual Household Latrine works can now be taken up either under convergence with NBA or independently under MGNREGS, as per choice of beneficiary at an unit cost of Rs.10,000. Government of Tamil Nadu have issued orders vide G.O.(Ms.) No.32 Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department dated 3.3.2014 for construction of IHHL independently under MGNREGS along with detailed guidelines in this regard (Also please refer 4.1.6.1.B).

During 2014-15, it is proposed to take up 10 lakh IHHL under MGNREGS with an allocation of Rs.1000 crore.

4.4.3. Institutional Toilets

Children are more receptive to new ideas and hence the most appropriate institutions are Anganwadis / Schools where sanitation education can be effectively imparted to change the behaviour, mindset and habits of the children from open defecation to the use of toilets. The experience gained by children through use of toilets in school and sanitation education imparted by teachers would also reach home and influence their parents to adopt good sanitary habits. School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Anganwadi toilets, therefore, forms an integral part of the NBA project.

4.4.3.1. School Toilets

Toilets in all types of Government schools, i.e. primary, secondary and higher secondary are constructed under the Scheme. Funding for School Sanitation in a NBA project is shared between the Central Government and State Government in the ratio of 70:30.

A total of 50,078 toilets have so far been constructed in Panchayat Union Schools and

Government Schools. This Government has ensured that all Schools in the State are provided with toilets.

All activities with regard to the provision of sanitation and hygiene education in Schools are being done in tandem with School Education Department. The Schools listed by School Education Department have also been verified and 2,057 Schools which did not have toilets have been covered with toilet facilities as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Additional toilet units are also being taken up based on the strength of students in the schools.

4.4.3.2. Anganwadi Toilets

It is essential to use Anganwadi as a platform for behavioural change among the children attending it as well as the mothers. Each Anganwadi is provided with a baby friendly toilet. Funding for Anganwadi Toilets under NBA is shared between the Central Government and State Government in the ratio of 70:30.

In Tamil Nadu, 28,386 Anganwadi toilets have been constructed under TSC/NBA since the inception of the Scheme. Further, all the 13,344 Anganwadi centers functioning in Government buildings which did not have a functional toilet as per the survey conducted in 2012 have also been provided with baby friendly toilets with an amount of Rs.22.36 crore provided by Government of Tamil Nadu.

4.4.4. Community Sanitary Complex

The Community Sanitary Complex is an important component of the NBA and the Complexes are set up in any place in the village, which is acceptable to the stakeholders and accessible to them. The Village Panchayat and the User Groups are expected to own the ultimate responsibility or make alternative arrangements at the village level for the maintenance of the Complex.

The sharing pattern amongst the Government of India, State Government and the Community is in the ratio of 60:30:10. The Village Panchayat also can make the community contribution. So far, 1,804

Complexes have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 36.02 crore.

4.4.5. Rural Sanitary Marts

Rural Sanitary Mart (RSM) is a commercial venture with a social objective. Rural Sanitary Mart is an outlet for dealing with the materials required for the construction of the sanitary latrines and also the sanitary facilities required for individuals, families and the environment in the rural areas. The main aim of having RSM is to provide materials, services and guidance needed for constructing different types of latrines and other sanitary facilities, which are technically and financially suitable to the area. The RSM may be opened and operated by NGOs, SHGs, Women Organisations, Panchayats, etc. An amount of Rs. 2.93 crore has been incurred as expenditure for establishing 195 RSMs in 31 districts of the State.

4.4.6. Production Centers

Production centers are the means to improve the production of cost effective and affordable sanitary materials under the NBA. A

maximum amount of Rs. 3.50 lakh per production centre can be provided for construction of shed, training of masons and also for sanction of revolving fund. So far, 65 production centers have been established in the State at a cost of Rs. 65 lakhs.

4.4.7. Nirmal Gram Puraskar

The 'Clean Village Campaign' Award was announced by the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in July 2003 for the best performing Village Panchayats in the field of Sanitation, thereby giving prime focus on the importance of Sanitation for the first time in the entire Country. Taking cue from this, Government of India had started awarding Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) awards from 2005 to give a fillip to the Total Sanitation Campaign. The NGP recognized the efforts of PRIs and other institutions towards full sanitation coverage in their respective areas.

4.4.7.1 NGP strives

1. To bring sanitation to the forefront of social and political discourse for development in rural India.
2. Towards open defecation free and clean villages.
3. To give incentive to PRIs to sustain the initiatives taken by them for full sanitation coverage.
4. To increase social mobilization by recognizing the role played by organizations in universal sanitation coverage.

The NGP award incentive amount varies from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 5 lakh in case of Village Panchayats and Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh for Block Panchayats, based on the population.

Upto 2011, 5 Block Panchayats and 2,385 Village Panchayats of Tamil Nadu have received NGP awards for achieving 100% sanitation and overall cleanliness. Revised NGP guidelines have been issued by

Government of India in December 2012, wherein, with the transition to Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, it has been decided that the selection of Village Panchayats to award Nirmal Gram Puraskar from the year 2012 shall be taken up by the respective State Governments, while selection of the Block and District Panchayats will continue to be with the Centre.

For the year 2013, 104 village Panchayats have qualified for the award after inspection of inter-district verification team. Government of India will undertake sample verification of these Village Panchayats based on which the final list of selected Village Panchayats will be announced.

4.5. Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)

The BRGF scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India by modification of erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) implemented through the funding of Union Planning Commission. The scheme is implemented in 6 Districts of Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Dindigul and Sivagangai.

4.5.1.Objectives

The scheme focuses on strengthening the local governance through capacity building and professional support to Local Bodies for planning, implementation & monitoring their plans and improves the performance and delivery of critical functions. The scheme is designed to redress the regional imbalances in development so as to bridge the critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements that are not being met adequately by the existing inflows.

4.5.2. BRGF consists of two Components

1. Development Grant

An untied grant meant to be used by Panchayats and urban Local Bodies to address critical gaps in integrated development, identified through the participative planning process.

2. Capacity Building Fund

This amount is issued for building the capacity of the elected representatives and the officials associated with Panchayat Raj

Institutions in planning, implementation, monitoring, accounting and improving the accountability & transparency.

The Government of India have sanctioned Development Grants under BRGF to the six districts for the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 as detailed below:

Table 4.5.1

Allocation under BRGF for 2012-13 & 2013-14

Sl.No	District	2012-13	2013-14
Amount (Rs.in crore)			
1.	Cuddalore	19.33	23.71
2.	Villupuram	24.10	29.56
3.	Tiruvannamalai	21.14	25.92
4.	Dindigul	20.46	25.09
5.	Nagapattinam	16.08	19.73
6.	Sivagangai	16.63	20.40
	Total	117.74	144.41

4,586 works were taken up and completed during the year 2012-13. Similarly, during the year 2013-14, 2,792 works were taken up. The works of basic amenities such

as Anganwadi building, Self Help Group Building, Health Sub Centre, Public Distribution Shop, Community Hall, Bus Shelter, Roads and Bridges have been taken up under the scheme.

Government of India has informed that a sum of Rs.130.49 crore has been allocated for the year 2014-15. District wise fund allocation is as below:

Table 4.5.2

District wise fund allocation

Sl. No.	District	Amount (Rs.in crore)
1.	Cuddalore	21.42
2.	Villupuram	26.71
3.	Tiruvannamalai	23.42
4.	Dindigul	22.68
5.	Nagapattinam	17.83
6.	Sivagangai	18.43
	Total	130.49

4.6. National Bio-gas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP)

This is a scheme which aims at effective use of organic waste and converting it

into energy. It is a Centrally sponsored scheme envisaging a subsidy of Rs.8000/- for all categories and Rs. 10,000/- in the hilly areas for the installation of biogas plants. The subsidy for toilet linked biogas plants is Rs.9000/-. This scheme is fully funded by the Central Government.

For the year 2013-14, the physical target for installation of biogas plants is 1,100 and so far 556 biogas plants have been completed so far and 10% to 20% of the target is implemented in one or two cluster villages.

4.7. Socio Economic Caste Census

The Government of India, co-ordinated by Ministry of Rural Development has initiated Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) in the Country. The Socio Economic Survey for identification of BPL families is done both in rural and urban areas. The information about caste and religion of the person will also be collected during this Census and this information, unlike other information of this Census, will not be made public and will be used by Registrar General of India for

statistical purpose for socio-economic profiling of various castes in India.

Financial and technical support is provided by Ministry of Rural Development and SECC, 2011 is being conducted by the State Administration under the guidance of Ministry of Rural Development. It is a paperless exercise in which data is captured on a hand held device (Tablet PC) supplied by Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) Bangalore. Directorate of Census Operations has supported the SECC 2011 by providing Training and Enumeration Block wise (EB), Abridged House list (AHL) and the layout Map to the Enumerators. The house list data captured in National Population Register (NPR) have been preloaded in the handheld device. The Enumerator appointed by the State Government and the Data-Entry Operator trained by the BEL had conducted the actual survey in the field. District Collector is the Principal SECC-2011 Officer (PSO) for the entire district and the survey has been done under his/her overall supervision.

Information collected at the level of the individual and household includes Occupation,

Education, Disability, Religion, SC/ST status, Name of Caste/Tribe, Employment, Income and source of income, Assets, Housing, Consumer durables / non-Durables and Land. The Socio-Economic and Caste Census also captures the housing status, employment characteristics, educational status, disability among the household members, landholding pattern, etc. The Census would be based on a self declaration model of the respondents, as per the questionnaire prescribed by the Government of India. The enumerators had recorded the declaration of the respondents and where they found that the response was prima facie incorrect, they had entered their remarks regarding the same and the Supervisor had mandatorily visited these houses and verified the veracity of the information. Detailed procedure for filing claims and objections and its disposal has to be followed. The information would be verified and approved by the Gram Sabha. Initially, the draft list will be published and at the end of 45th day in rural areas and 52nd day in urban areas, the final list will be published and uploaded in the website.

The Government of India has allocated Rs. 89.21 crore for the conduct of SECC in Tamil Nadu. The preparatory works relating to SECC started in Tamil Nadu during December, 2011 after the conclusion of ordinary elections to the Local Bodies and the entire process of enumeration and supervisory verification was completed by September 2012. The additional procedure of verification and correction of database using the software introduced by the Government of India in November 2012 was also completed. The BEL, Bangalore is now attending to the issues relating to Jurisdictional Errors and Duplicate EBs as per the technical clarifications issued by Government of India and generating the draft publication files (D-files). On publication of Draft List, the Claims and Objections process will commence and the final publication will be made by the District Collector/Principal District SECC Officer concerned as per the prescribed timeline.

5. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

5. Rural Infrastructure - Roads

Enabling Physical access to rural communities is critical for providing health, education and other social and economic services. Roads are key elements in the provision of physical access. Rural roads are often treated as the last link of the transport network. Nevertheless, rural roads often form the most important link in providing access for the rural population. Their permanent or seasonal absence will heavily impact access to basic services such as education, primary health care, water supply, local markets and economic opportunities.

Rural Road connectivity promotes access to economic and social services, thereby generating increased agricultural as well as non-agri based productivity, which in turn will expand rural growth opportunities and real income through which poverty can be reduced.

Investment in rural roads has significant potential for the use of local resources, creation of jobs and strengthening of local commerce, and thus leads to poverty reduction

and socio-economic development of rural areas.

This Government has already announced that “Every village with the population of more than 500 will have a black topped road and other habitations will have an all-weather road”. **The objective is to ensure access to the remotest regions and far flung areas through all weather roads.**

5.1. Rural Road Network

The surface details of the Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union Roads in the state are as given below:

Table 5.1
Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union Roads

Sl. No	Type of Surface	Village Panchayat Road	Panchayat Union Road	Total
		Length (in Km)		
1	Black topped	54,793.23	29,195.16	83,988.39
2	Cement concrete	1,904.53	167.96	2,072.49
3	Double layer WBM	3,729.91	489.54	4,219.45
4	Single Layer WBM	9,211.64	848.39	10,060.03
5	Gravel	8,929.76	490.79	9,420.55
6	Earthen	32,031.69	1,284.71	33,316.40
	Total	1,10,600.76	32,476.55	1,43,077.31

The endeavour of the Government is to ensure that road access is provided round the year across all seasons on a continued basis. For this purpose, the Department is adopting a three pronged strategy, as given below, so as to keep this vast network of rural roads in motorable condition:

- **Upgradation of Non-BT roads into BT roads.**
- **Strengthening of the existing damaged BT roads.**
- **Maintenance of the existing BT roads.**

5.1.1. Upgradation of Non-BT roads

As indicated in the table above, there are about 57,016 Km length of Non-BT roads in rural areas. The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department has proposed to upgrade the important Non-BT roads based on the following priority:

- Providing connectivity to unconnected Habitations
- Upgradation of Bus Plying Roads.

- Upgradation of other important Non-BT roads based on various indicators like Utility services connected, number of Habitations directly and indirectly benefited etc.

Based on the above, during 2012-13, a total length of 9,236 Km of roads were taken up for Upgradation by channelling funds from various schemes like THAI, NABARD-RIDF, RIS, MLACDS, General Funds of Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions etc at a cost of Rs.1,448 crore. All these works have been completed.

For the year 2013-14, so far, 4,459.88 Km length of roads have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.1,105.85 crore.

During 2014-2015, it is proposed to take up 9,235 km length of non-BT roads for upgradation to BT standard at a cost of Rs.2,100 crore by Pooling funds from THAI, NABARD-RIDF, RIS, SFC, SCPAR, MLACDS, IGFF, General Funds of Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions etc.

5.1.2. Strengthening of existing damaged BT roads

Roads which are heavily damaged and are at the end of their life cycle and roads which have been damaged due to floods etc., are being taken up for strengthening on priority basis. Funds for such roads are met out from schemes like NABARD-RIDF, PMGSY, SCPAR, IGFF, SFC, MLACDS etc. **In the last three years, 5,892.86 Km length of roads have been taken up under this category at a cost of Rs.1,113.17 crore as given below:**

Table 5.2
Details of existing damaged Road taken up for strengthening in the last three years

Sl. No.	Year	Length (in Km)	Amount (Rs.in crore)
1	2011-12	830.83	99.70
2	2012-13	1,534.94	205.58
3	2013-14	3,527.09	807.89
Total		5,892.86	1,113.17

During 2014-15, about 2,000 Km length of roads will be taken up for strengthening at a cost of Rs. 600 crore under various schemes.

5.1.3. Maintenance of the existing Black Topped roads.

For the benefits of connectivity to be sustained, road construction must be followed by a well planned programme of maintenance.

Without regular maintenance, roads will rapidly fall into disrepair, preventing them from giving long term benefits to the people in the area.

Delayed maintenance has indirect cost as well. Neglected roads steadily become more difficult to use, resulting in increased vehicle operating costs and reluctance of the transport operators to use the roads. This imposes a heavy burden on the state.**The goal of maintenance is to preserve the assets in usable condition.**

In order to have proper maintenance of the rural road network, it is proposed to initiate the following measures:

- Formulating a Comprehensive framework for maintenance.
- Updating the basic data on the online road register with additional road

features like Traffic Intensity, California Bearing Ratio (CBR), Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and Cross Drainage Structures etc.

- Bringing the Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads into a GIS platform.
- Establishment of a Road Management system for monitoring the Rural Road network.

5.2. Rural Roads Maintenance Scheme (RRMS)

The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced in the floor of the Legislative Assembly that a new scheme, viz., Rural Roads Maintenance Scheme for the periodic maintenance of Panchayat and Panchayat union roads would be implemented with a total allocation of Rs.400 crore.

Under RRMS, during 2013-14, an allocation of Rs.400 crore was made by dovetailing Rs.150 crore from 13th Finance Commission Grant and Rs.250 crore from State Finance Commission Grant for the periodic maintenance of 4,000 Km length of rural roads vide G.O (Ms) No.88 Rural Development

&Panchayat Raj (SGS-II) Department dated 23.07.2013.(Full text of the G.O. is available at <http://tnrd.gov.in/archi-state-schemes.php>).

Under this scheme, 2,001 roads have been taken up covering a length of 3,978.71km

In the last three years 8,735.62 Km length of roads have been taken up under this category at a cost of Rs. 815.94 crore as given below:

Table 5.3.

Details of Road works taken up under maintenance in the last three years

Sl. No.	Year	Length (in Km)	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	2011-12	1,973.73	159.06
2	2012-13	2,393.09	220.91
3	2013-14	4,368.80	435.97
Total		8,735.62	815.94

For the year 2014-15,an allocation of Rs.300 crore will be made under this scheme by dovetailing Rs.169 crore from 13th Finance Commission Grant and Rs.131 crore from State Finance Commission Grant.

5.3. Construction of Bridges

The importance of Rural Connectivity is well known. The provision of All-weather connectivity is not complete without provision of perennial link facilities across natural streams and water courses. With this agenda, this department has been sanctioning important high value bridge works under various schemes.

In the last three years, the department has sanctioned 147 bridge works at a total cost of Rs.187.09 crore as given below:

Table 5.4

Details of bridges sanctioned in last three years

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Bridges sanctioned	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	2011-12	30	40.42
2	2012-13	24	30.27
3	2013-14	93	116.40
Total		147	187.09

During 2014-15, it is proposed to take up 105 bridge works at a total cost of Rs.159.83 crore as given below:

Table 5.5
Bridges Proposed to be taken up during 2014-15

Sl. No.	Scheme	No. of Bridges	Amount (Rs.in crore)
1	PMGSY Phase IX	6	8.65
2	SCPAR and IGFF	17	42.31
3	NABARD	26	35.21
4	Infrastructure and Amenities Fund	56	73.66
	Total	105	159.83

5.4. NABARD – RIDF Roads

In order to assist the State Governments in the development of rural infrastructure, Government of India announced the setting up of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) under NABARD for financing rural infrastructure projects implemented by the State Governments. Major investments covered under this Fund include Agriculture and allied sectors, Social sectors, Rural Connectivity etc.

Under RIDF, upto tranche XVI, 4,305 road works for a length of 10,577.42 Km have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.1,321.17 crore and all the works have been completed.

Table 5.6
Year wise details of Road works taken up under NABARD-RIDF

Year	Tranche	Number	Length (in Km)	Value (Rs. in crore)
2011-12	XVII	958	2598.65	451.77
2012-13	XVIII	381	1000.46	198.07
2013-14	XIX	185	367.63	100.00
	Total	1524	3966.74	749.84

5.4.1. Additional Proposal

An additional proposal has been submitted to NABARD under Tranche-XIX for an amount of Rs 56.21 crore for taking up of 53 roads and 26 bridges. The proposals are under process at NABARD.

5.4.2. Allocation for 2014-15

For the year 2014-15, Rs. 250 crore has been allocated under NABARD-RIDF and against this a proposal for taking 643 roads

covering a length of 1,280.81 km at a cost of Rs 339.91 crore has been submitted to NABARD.

5.5. Thirteenth Finance Commission Grants

Government in G.O. Ms. No. 11 Highways and Minor Ports (HN1) Department dated: 23.01.2012 have issued orders apportioning the Grants-in-Aid for Maintenance of roads and bridges in the ratio 2:1 between Highways & Minor Ports Department and Rural Development Department. The funds are used for maintaining the existing black topped roads.

Table 5.7
Year wise details of road works taken up under 13th Finance Commission Grant

Year	Number	Length (in km)	Value (Rs. in crore)
2011-12	923	1778.48	143.00
2012-13	810	1659.14	151.00
2013-14	752	1535.68	159.00
Total	2485	4973.30	453.00

5.5.1 Allocation for 2014-15

For the year 2014-2015, an amount of Rs.169 crore has been allocated for maintenance of Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads. Based on the allotment, 842 road works have been taken up for a length of 1599.83 km.

5.6. Rural Infrastructure Scheme-Road

This scheme seeks to bridge the existing gap in infrastructure in rural areas in terms of rural connectivity and to stabilize the assets already created under MGNREGS so as to make them more durable. Out of the overall allocation under this scheme, 60% is provided for upgradation of roads and 40% is utilised for stabilizing MGNREGS works.

Table 5.8
Year wise details of Road works taken up under RIS

Year	Number	Length (in km)	Value (Rs. in crore)
2011-12	1348	1638.33	150.00
2012-13	1361	1259.27	166.67
2013-14	746	744.51	150.00
Total	3455	3642.11	466.67

5.6.1 Allocation for 2014-15

For the year 2014-15, a sum of Rs. 250 crore will be allocated under RIS. Out of this, 60% (i.e. Rs 150 crore) has been earmarked for upgradation of roads and 40% (Rs 100 crore) has been earmarked for stabilizing the assets created under MGNREGS.

5.7. Laying of BT Roads with plastic waste

Protecting the environment from the hazards of plastic waste is one of the priorities of this Government. Accordingly, in the Budget for 2011-12, the Government had announced a separate fund for "laying roads with plastic waste and eliminate plastic waste from villages".

The laying of roads using plastic waste has been taken up under Environmental Protection and Renewable Energy Development Fund (EPREDF), NABARD-RIDF, 13th Finance Commission Grant, Rural Infra Structure Scheme and Rural Road Maintenance Scheme.

Table 5.9

Year wise details of Road works taken up using Plastic Waste

Year	No. of works taken up	Length (in Km)	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2011-12	82	193.84	16.28
2012-13	442	1060.22	138.41
2013-14	2572	4456.00	563.28
Total	3096	5710.06	717.97

The shredded plastic waste required for laying the BT Roads is processed through the 20 Collection and processing centres, established at a cost of Rs. 80 lakhs under EPREDF.

So far, 17,176 MTs of plastic waste have been used for laying of B.T. roads.

5.8. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

With the objective of providing round-the-year connectivity to unconnected habitations by all weather roads with necessary culverts and cross drainage structures, GoI launched

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the year 2000. Between PMGSY Phase - I (2000-01) and PMGSY Phase - VII (2007-08), 4,946 roads were taken up for a length of 9,970.150 Kms at a cost of Rs.2,022 crore and all the works have been completed.

5.8.1. PMGSY Phase VIII (2012-13)

Due to the sustained efforts of Government of Tamilnadu, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, has sanctioned road works under PMGSY Phase-VIII.

Totally 1,341 road and bridge works have been sanctioned for a length of 3093.77 Km at a cost Rs.1129.70 crore. This includes Rs.108.95 crore as state share. The State Government has also allocated Rs.65.81 crore for 5 year routine maintenance of these works.

Table 5.10
Details of sanction under PMGSY - Phase VIII

Sl. No	Details	No. of works	Length of roads (in Km)	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	Roads (RD Department)	966	2031.222	772.98
2	Roads (Highways Department)	330	1062.542	278.54
	Roads -Total	1,296	3,093.764	1,051.52
3	Bridges (RD Department)	45		78.18
	Grand Total	1,341	3,093.764	1,129.70

5.8.2. PMGSY Phase VIII includes the following innovative projects

5.8.2.1. Coir Geo Textiles

Construction of 19 road works, using Coir-Geo Textiles Technology for a length of 42.20 Km at a cost of Rs.16.74 crore.

5.8.2.2. RBI Grade 81

Laying of 7 roads using RBI Grade 81, which is a soil stabilizing chemical, for a length 16.51 Km at a cost of Rs.5.71 crore.

5.8.2.3. Long Span Bridges

The sanction also includes 45 long span bridges at a total cost of Rs.78.18 crore. The funding of Government of India is limited to 50m length and the balance amount is being shared on prorata basis by Government of Tamil Nadu.

5.8.2.4. Cross-Drainage and Protective walls

Rural roads are generally constructed without proper Cross Drainage facilities rendering the roads non-motorable during rainy seasons. Hence, enough care was taken during the preparation of DPRs to incorporate sufficient number of Cross Drainage and protective works under PMGSY Phase VIII.

Totally, 4,663 Cross Drainage and protective works were taken up in 1,296 roads. Only after completion of Cross Drainage and protective works pavement work can be commenced. Therefore the department focusses on the completion of the Cross Drainage and protective works before commencing the structural layers.

5.8.3. PMGSY -Phase IX

Under PMGSY-Phase IX, Detailed Project Reports have been prepared for 418 road works for a length of 980 Km at a cost of Rs.364 crore. The proposal has been sent to Government of India for approval.

5.9. Infrastructure and Amenities Fund

Infrastructure and Amenities Fund is operated and maintained by the Director of Town & Country Planning. Infrastructure and Amenities charge is collected from major residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings since 2007.

The projects under this fund may include:

- a) Preparation of Infrastructure Investment plans
- b) Execution of the Infrastructure Investment plans in full or part.
- c) Any purpose incidental to the preparation or execution of Infrastructure Investment plans.

For the first time, project proposals to the tune of Rs.73.66 Crore for the construction

of 56 bridges and causeways were submitted by RD & PR department for sanction of funds.

Accordingly, 56 bridges for an amount of Rs.73.66 Crore were sanctioned in 9 districts by the Committee under Infrastructure and Amenities Fund.

5.10. Scheme-wise details of road works taken up in the last 3 years

Table 5.11
Scheme-wise details of road works taken up in the last 3 years

Sl. No	Name of the Scheme	Length (in Km)	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	2031.22	851.16
2	NABARD-RIDF	3966.74	753.51
3	Plastic road	429.87	37.50
4	13 th Finance commission Grant	4973.30	453.00
5	Rural Roads Maintenance Scheme (RRMS)	2443.03	250.00
6	TamilNadu Habitations Improvements Scheme (THAI)	4039.17	682.48
7	Rural Infrastructure Scheme (RIS)	3642.11	466.67
8	State Finance Commission Grant	1302.41	224.10

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9	Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme	1605.18	211.36
10	Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	576.54	78.68
11	Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue	717.67	209.56
12	Others (IGFF, BRGF, SSS, SBGF, General Fund, VP surplus fund, etc.)	3997.53	677.17
TOTAL		29724.77	4895.19

5.11. Design, Quality Control and Technical Audit Wing

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is executing works to the tune of about Rs.15,000 crore annually. These works are of varied nature including Buildings, Roads, Bridges, Water supply and drainage works and Water Harvesting structures under various State and centrally sponsored schemes. These works are executed across the length and breadth of the state spread over more than 79,000 habitations. In the last 3 years, the department has been taking many high value building and bridge works, some of which are more than Rs.5 crore in value.

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The Government is spending huge sums of money on development works and if the works are not designed, estimated and implemented as per required specifications and standards, then the intended benefits meant for the people may be short lived and the money spent may become unfruitful.

The proper implementation of any project is dependent on the following:

- Design to suit and fulfil the site and functional requirements
- Correct estimation to arrive at the fund requirement
- Use of quality materials and proper workmanship during execution
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control

In order to achieve the above, the following need to be in place:

- i. Establishing an in-house design wing at the state and district level and also providing necessary capacity building.
- ii. Empanelling leading educational institutions and consultants for the

purpose of preparation of Detailed Project Reports for high value works.

- iii. Establishing a technical audit wing to carry out technical audit of estimates prior to, execution and technical audit of works at construction and post construction stages.
- iv. Establishing a system of Total Quality Management to ensure Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC). This system should consist of an in-house Quality control wing and an independent third party Quality control team.

5.11.1. Design Wing

As already indicated this department has been taking up many high value bridges and building works. More than 100 building works costing about Rs.180 crore and 147 bridge works costing about Rs.187.09 crore have been sanctioned in the last 3 years. Another set of 105 bridges are to be sanctioned shortly. The design for these works is being prepared by private consultants or by Engineering

Institutions. However, there are no dedicated technical staffs at the District or State level to scrutinise these designs. Hence, it is proposed to create design wings at the state and district levels. To begin with, these wings will function with staff deputed from among the existing engineering staff. The Engineers posted in these units will be provided with necessary training and capacity building. Exclusive posts will be sanctioned for this wing shortly.

5.11.2. Quality Control and Technical Audit Wing

Quality Control is a corrective tool which is product oriented and focuses on defect identification and correction through activities or techniques to fulfil the requirements for quality. **Quality Assurance** is a managerial tool which is process oriented and focuses on defect prevention by establishing a good quality management system.

The **Total Quality Management** consists of Quality Assurance and Quality Control.

In order to achieve the above objective, the first step will be the Establishment of a

dedicated "Quality control and Technical Audit Wing" at the State level, Regional level and District level. The state level unit will be headed by a State Quality Co-ordinator in the rank of a Superintending Engineer, the Regional level units will be headed by an Executive Engineer and the District level units will be headed by an Assistant Executive Engineer. Necessary support staff and other facilities including QC lab also will be established. The role of these units is to carry out routine checks on various Quality standards in an independent manner. In addition, these units will carry out technical audit of the works prior to, during and at post construction stages.

At present, the State Quality Monitors (retired engineers) function as independent QC monitors. In order to further improve transparency, this department will review this system and make suitable modifications so as to make this as an effective tool for improving the Quality standards.

To monitor and review the entire process of Total Quality Management (TQM), an online

Quality Control module will be established. This module will be linked to the existing Online Scheme Monitoring System. A facility will be created to generate a random list of works for inspection by the QC units. The auto generated list will be called the "Inspection Priority List (IPL)". This will be based on value of work, nature of work, scheme, location etc. The record of all inspections including observations on quality, details of QC tests etc will be uploaded by all the three tiers of QC units. The Action Taken Reports on the observations will also be uploaded into this system. This system will form the basis for the periodical review of the QC mechanism.

5.12. Training and Capacity Building of Engineers

This department lays lot of emphasis on imparting regular training to the staff, since training and capacity building is a crucial factor in the overall development of any organization. It is beneficial to both the organization and the employees. Training gives orientation to new employees, increases skill level and overall efficiency of the existing staff. Training

improves the morale of employees and enables them to contribute for organizational success. Training also considerably reduces the monitoring needs of the department. It also reduces mistakes, increases overall productivity and leads to quality performance of employees. Training is a continuous and never ending process.

Training can be classified as follows:

- **Orientation Training / Induction Training** – This training is mandatory for all the new employees.
- **Refresher Programmes** – This is a periodical event to update on any new technological developments and latest industry updates relevant to the job domain of the employee.
- **Specialised Training** – This training is provided to select employees based on job needs.

5.13. Training to Registered Contractors

The quality, work related knowledge and capacity of the contractor is very critical for the

success of any project. However, this factor is often ignored. There is little or no effort to sensitise the contractor before the commencement of the project, which leads to unwanted delays, financial loss, poor quality in execution and escalation of project cost. The biggest challenge sometimes is finding the right contractor.

Hence, to sensitise and to familiarise the contractors about the requirements of the schemes and to sensitise them on their responsibilities towards the project, it is proposed to impart training to all the registered contractors of the department in the state in a phased manner. This will provide an opportunity for the contractors to enhance their capacity and skill level which will ultimately result in better delivery of scheme benefits to the rural people.

6. MONITORING

6. Monitoring

This Government over the past several years have been adopting multiple strategies to attain the objectives of poverty eradication, providing livelihood, improving health and sanitation, providing educational and other basic facilities through implementation of an array of development schemes. The multifaceted activities of the department across a wide geographical area pose a huge managerial challenge to ensure that the intended objectives are attained within a reasonable time and cost.

The stated objectives and guidelines of various schemes necessitate creation of huge data, involvement of scores of stakeholders with various processes and procedures. In order to have managerial control over these key components, it is imperative to have a well defined monitoring system with system built checks and balances.

Initially, the Department hosted an informative webpage with the continuous support of NIC at *www.tnrd.gov.in*. This home

page provides detailed and upto date information on the activities of the department, various schemes implemented, Documents relating to important Acts, Rules and Government Orders of public interest and other basic data base relating to Rural Development Department.

In order to improve the monitoring mechanism, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department had established a dedicated online system called "Online Scheme Monitoring System" developed by NIC, Chennai in its web page *tnrd.gov.in* during 2011. The objective of this system is to provide a single web based platform for monitoring the physical and financial performance at District, Block, Village Panchayat and Habitation levels.

For instance, this tool assists in keeping track of the performance of a whopping 7.78 lakh works sanctioned under various Rural Development schemes during 2013-14 across the State and enables fixing of targets and action plans for timely completion of these works by the implementing units. This system also enables judicious release of funds based

on performance and thus prevents unproductive locking up of funds in various districts.

The diverse activities on a humongous scale in RD&PR department pose a challenge for effective management. Hence, besides physical and financial monitoring system, other need based tools were also established to strengthen the monitoring system. Over the last 3 years, the department has been making effective use of the online portal for myriad uses, which have enabled smart decision making. Broadly, the following information are available in the online portal:

- Survey Reports
- Monitoring Reports
- Scheme Proposals
- Basic Database
- Fund Management
- Stores Management
- Meeting Minutes
- Messaging Service

There are about 300 types of reports available in the online portal which includes Habitation-wise THAI survey details, Sanitation survey reports, MGNREGS Daily work reports, Physical and financial performance reports of all the schemes, extensive details on Road network, Minor Irrigation tanks details etc.

The application of Information Technology is infinite and the department has endeavoured to adopt this in a major way. **In order to make the administration more transparent, accountable and efficient, this department has put in place a few initiatives some of which are detailed below:**

6.1. Real Time Monitoring System (RTMS)

The success of any online system depends on precise and timely updation of data at regular intervals. In the present system, the field inspection of a particular work and updating of it status in the online portal are two independent activities with the latter taking place much after the completion of field inspection. This increases the possibility of data gaps, entry of erroneous data etc. In order to

avoid this and also to ensure that the status of works is entered concurrently, a Real-Time Monitoring system has been developed with the assistance of NIC, Chennai. This system will also reduce the data entry work of the field engineers substantially.

6.1.1 Features of the RTMS

- Up-to-the minute monitoring of progress.
- Facilitates early detection of issues and problems and enables immediate response to them.
- Identifies operational deficiencies as and when they happen.
- Enables timely decision-making.

With the above objectives the department has developed an *Android* based application to facilitate real time updation of the progress of works. The mobile based application works in any *Android* based smart phones with the requisite configuration. **This application will enable the field engineers to carry out field inspection and update status online simultaneously without time and data gap.**

This application is operated through smart phones with Global Positioning System (GPS) and facilitates uploading of photographs of the works directly from the worksites. Since the application has provision to work in offline and online modes, the application can be used even in the remotest areas where there is no net connectivity. This application has been linked to the 'Online Scheme Monitoring System (OSMS)'. The details of the works can be downloaded on to the mobile of the user and the status and photographs of the works can be uploaded into the OSMS.

After extensive field trials and piloting in Kancheepuram and Tiruppur Districts, the facility has now been extended to all the districts. The mobile handsets with the required specifications have been procured by all the districts for the Assistant Engineers. Necessary training has been imparted to the state and district level officials.

To start with, the progress of all the housing and road works taken up during 2014-15 will be updated directly from the sites along with geo-tagged photographs. This

system will be extended for all other scheme works in a phased manner. An important feature of the RTMS is the Geo-Fencing of the work site in order to preclude the possibilities of errors/discrepancies/misreporting of the progress of works.

6.2. Online Valuation Certificate

Rural Housing is one of the major components of the Rural Development Schemes. Every year, the department takes up around 1,60,000 houses across the districts. The departmental supply of critical materials like cement, steel, doors and windows and timely payment of bills are the key factors for the completion of works within the time frame. In order to reduce the time taken for preparation of bills, Government have issued orders for payment of bills to the beneficiaries based on **Valuation Certificate**.

In order to further expedite the process of bill payment, it is proposed to introduce a system of online generation of Valuation Certificate. This will further reduce the time gap between preparation of valuation certificate and actual payment to the beneficiaries.

The following components are part of the proposed system:

- The Online Scheme Monitoring System with the complete details of the beneficiaries of housing schemes will be linked to the Real-Time Monitoring System (RTMS).
- A Billing module will be created in the *tncrd.gov.in* website which will contain a pre-designed valuation certificate and Memo of Payment which will also be linked to the RTMS and the existing OSMS so that stage-wise valuation certificates and memo of payment are automatically generated as and when the progress of a house is updated through smart phone. The valuation certificate will contain the photo of the house uploaded from the site with geo-reference.
- The Valuation Certificate and Memo of payment, generated online, duly signed by the competent authority will be used for making payments to the beneficiaries.

In the first stage, this system will enable the field engineers to generate valuation certificate for Bill payment directly from the site, through smart phones, upon verification of the completion of the required stage. In the second stage, provisions will be made for crediting the money directly to the beneficiary's account through Electronic Fund Transfer order (eFTO).

6.3. Cement Supply Chain Management System (CSCMS)

In order to facilitate and expedite the completion of various development works, the Rural Development Department provides for departmental supply of critical input materials like Cement, Steel, Bitumen and Steel Door & Windows. Every year, huge quantity of materials is being channelled through the block godowns. In order to keep track of the receipt, supply, billing, accounting and recoveries of dues, the department has put in place a dedicated online Cement Supply Chain Management System (CSCMS). This system enables requirement based indenting, demand based supply, proper record keeping, timely

payment etc. In the next phase, the supply of other materials like steel, bitumen etc will also be brought into the online system. The CSCMS has been developed by NIC, Chennai.

6.4. Comprehensive Work Flow Management System (CWFMS)

This Government reiterated its commitment in delivering transparent, efficient and exemplary governance by announcing that it will launch an ambitious Comprehensive Project Formulation, Execution and Management System which will integrate and computerise the entire process of works implementation in the State, right from the stage of preparation of estimates, tendering, award of tenders etc., up to payment of bills.

In line with the policy of the Government, this department will create a Comprehensive Online based Work Flow Management System to manage and systemize various processes, transaction of information and decision making without delay.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department takes up various types of works

like buildings, bridges, roads, water supply etc., in huge numbers.

The sheer size of the works and the huge outlay under various schemes warrant close monitoring at various levels for ensuring that the long term and short term targets are achieved.

Generally, implementation of works involves a series of activities and processes, defined as a work, involving one or more simple or complex mechanisms. The activities normally involved include, submission of proposals, Preparation of estimates, According Administrative and Technical Sanction, Tendering, Execution, Monitoring and Payment.

The Online Scheme Monitoring System (OSMS) captures the physical and financial progress of the works after necessary Administrative Sanction has been issued. The other aspects/processes of the scheme implementation are not captured by the system and hence, delay or problems in the other processes are not reflected on the monitoring data.

The proposed Comprehensive Work Flow Management System (CMFMS) is to be integrated with OSMS and other existing applications like Cement Supply Chain Management System, Online Road list etc., so as to put in a comprehensive Work Flow Management System.

The introduction of this comprehensive work flow management system is a further step towards fulfilment of the Government's commitment to provide efficient and transparent governance.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

7. Human Resource Development

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department believes and considers its employees as its most important assets and accords high priority to their welfare and believes that improving the working conditions of the employees and ensuring the entitlements due for them lead to efficiency and smooth functioning of the department.

A total number of **57,981** staff are employed in Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department which include Administrative and Technical personnel.

Table 7.1

Categorywise Staff strength

a. Government Employees

Sl.No	Category	No. of staff
1.	Gazetted Establishment	1,455
2.	Non-Gazetted Establishment	11,802
3.	Engineering Establishment	5,335
Total		18,592

b. Local body Employees

Sl.No.	Category	No. of staff
1.	Block Panchayat	2,692
2.	Village Panchayat	36,697
Total		39,389
Grand Total		57,981

7.1. Gazetted Establishment

7.1.1 This Government have issued orders to fill up the vacancies existing in various cadres like Additional Directors, Joint Directors and Assistant Directors. The Government have ensured that all the regular entitlements including timely promotions of the staff are granted to them. During 2013-14, panels have been drawn up in the cadres of Additional Directors, Joint Directors, Assistant Directors and promotions given. 3 qualified Joint Directors were promoted as Additional Directors, 21

qualified Assistant Directors were promoted as Joint Directors, 85 qualified Block Development Officers were promoted as Assistant Directors.

7.1.2 Creation of New Posts

Under Pudhu Vazhvu Project, one post in the cadre of Additional Director (G.O.Ms.No.63, RD & PR (CGS-3) Department, dt.28.6.2013) and under Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM), 32 posts in the cadre of Assistant Directors have been created in G.O.Ms.No.183, RD & PR (CGS-3) Department, dt.31.12.2013. The Government in G.O.(Ms) No.171, RD&PR(E5) Department, dated 13.11.2013, have created 5 additional posts of Assistant Director(Audit) and 5 additional posts of Assistant Director (Panchayat) in the districts of Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Kancheepuram and Cuddalore where the number of Village Panchayats are more than 500 in the district. The

following staff have been sanctioned for each Assistant Director's Office.

Table 7.2
Sanctioned Staff for each Assistant Director's Office

Name of the Post	No. of posts	Total posts
Assistant Director	1	10
Deputy Block Development Officer	2	20
Assistant	4	40
Junior Assistant	3	30
Steno-Typist	1	10
Typist	1	10
Driver	1	10
Record Clerk	1	10
Office Assistant	2	20
Total	16	160

7.1.3. Creation of Legal Cell

The Government have issued orders in G.O.(Ms) No.160, RD & PR(E5) Department, dt.22.10.2013 for the creation of a Legal Cell in the Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj with one post of Deputy

Secretary (Law), one post of Junior Assistant and one post of Office Assistant.

7.1.4. The Senior Officers of this Department have also been deputed to other Departments / Agencies like Special Programme Implementation Department, TWAD, Planning Commission, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Electricity Board, Tamil Nadu Water Shed Development Agency, Monorail, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Gulf of Mannar Bio-sphere Reserve Trust, etc., in the cadre of Additional Director to Assistant Director.

7.2. Engineering Establishment

7.2.1. The quantum of work and expenditure under MGNREGS have grown tremendously and the need for monitoring the execution of work particularly at hundreds of locations was engaging the attention of Government. Therefore, the

Government in G.O.Ms.No. 157, RD&PR (E5) Department, dated 22.10.2013 have sanctioned additional posts of **technical personnel** implementing the MGNREGS in the State i.e., 5 posts of Executive Engineers, 10 posts of Assistant Executive Engineers, 100 posts of Assistant Engineers, 385 posts of Overseers, 5 posts of Senior Draughting Officers and other supporting staff as given below:

Table 7.3

Posts sanctioned to supervise MGNREGS works

Sl. No	Category of post	No. of posts.
1.	Executive Engineers	5
2.	Assistant Executive Engineers	10
3.	Assistant Engineers	100
4.	Overseers	385
II. Supporting staff for each Executive Engineer post		
1.	Senior Draughting Officer	1
2.	Assistant	1
3.	Driver	1
4.	Office Assistant	1

III. Supporting staff for each Assistant Executive Engineer post		
1.	Assistant	1
2.	Junior Assistant	1
3.	Driver	1
4.	Office Assistant	1
Total		508

7.2.2. Government in G.O.(Ms)No.13, RD & PR(E5) Department, dt.11.2.2014 have allocated 5 newly sanctioned posts of additional Executive Engineers to the following districts viz., Villupuram, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore and Kancheepuram. The Government have also fixed the jurisdictional area of the additional Executive Engineer within the district.

7.2.3. Government in G.O.(Ms) No.15, RD & PR(E5) Department, dt.13.2.2014, have created 10 additional sub-divisions by re-organising the 100 existing Rural Development sub-divisions on needy basis and also fixed the jurisdictional area of all the 110

sub-divisions by redistributing the blocks.

- 7.2.4.** Considering the need for Strengthening Technical Cell and Administrative Wing under MGNREGS, additional posts like Executive Engineer/Assistant Executive Engineer/Junior Draughting Officer / Accounts Officer etc., have been sanctioned in G.O.Ms.No.161, RD & PR(E5) Department, dt.24.10.2013.

Table 7.4

Posts sanctioned to State Level NREGA Cell

Sl. No.	Category of post	No. of posts.
A. State Administrative wing		
1.	Accounts Officer	1
2.	Deputy Block Development Officer	1
3.	Assistant	2
B. State Technical Cell		
4.	Executive Engineer	1
5.	Assistant Executive Engineer	1
6.	Junior Draughting Officer	1
C. State MIS Wing		
7.	Data Analyst-cum-Computer Assistant	2
Total		9

- 7.2.5.** Government have issued orders for absorption of 10 Project Engineers of Building Centres as Assistant Engineers (RD) into the Engineering wing in G.O.Ms.No.139, RD & PR (E3) Department, dt.28.9.2013.

- 7.2.6.** During the year 2013-14, 17 Overseers have also been promoted as Junior Engineers.

- 7.2.7.** Government have also issued orders in relaxing Special Rules in favour of 130 Overseers who have acquired B.E.(Civil) Degree for promotion to Assistant Engineer posts in G.O.Ms.No.45, RD&PR (E3) Department, dated 23.5.2013. Under Tamilnadu Panchayat Development Engineering Service Rules, certain anomalies have been noticed in the preparation of Seniority list in respect of Overseers/Junior Draughting Officers. The Government have therefore, issued amendment to Rule 5(A) of Tamil Nadu Panchayat Development Engineering Service

Rules, in G.O.(Ms)No.19, RD & PR(E3) Department, dt.24.2.2014.

7.2.8. 108 posts of Road Inspector Grade II have also been filled up during 2013-14.

7.2.9. The Technical personnel from RD & PR Department have also been deputed to other Departments/Agencies like Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Tamilnadu Co-operative Milk Producers Limited (Aavin), State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) etc., in the cadre of Executive Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers.

7.3. Non-Gazetted Establishment

7.3.1. From 2011-12 to 2013-14, a total No. of 3,735 vacancies were filled up by direct recruitment through TNPSC from 2011-12 to 2013 -14 as follows:

Table 7.5

Direct recruitment through TNPSC from 2011-12 to 2013 -14

Name of the Posts	Nos. Filled up
Assistants	1,534
Junior Assistants	1,388
Typist / Steno Typist	813
Total	3,735

7.3.2. Likewise from 2011 -12 to 2013-14, staff belong to various cadres were promoted to the next higher cadre. 269 Deputy Block Development Officers were promoted as Block Development Officers, 625 Assistants were promoted as Deputy Block Development Officers and 920 Typists / Junior Assistants were promoted as Assistants. 347 persons were appointed as Junior Assistants on compassionate grounds. 86 persons worked as Record Clerk / Office Assistant/Night Watchman were promoted as Junior Assistants under 10% reservation and 299 Panchayat

Secretaries were promoted as Junior Assistants under 20% reservation.

7.3.3. As per Hon'ble Chief Minister's Announcement made in Legislative Assembly on 09.04.2013, the Government have issued orders in G.O.(Ms) No.129 RD & PR (E5) Department, dated: 14.09.2013 to engage 16,726 additional Sanitary Workers in Village Panchayats. Guidelines for engaging the Sanitary Workers were issued in G.O. (Ms) No. 130 RD & PR (E5) Department, dated 14.09.2013. As per the above Government orders 16,457 Sanitary Workers were engaged in Village Panchayats.

7.3.4. The Service Rules have been framed for Panchayats Secretaries working in Village Panchayats in G.O.(Ms) No.72 RD & PR (E5) Department dated 09.07.2013.

7.3.5. In G.O.(Ms) No.39 RD & PR (E5) Department, dated: 07.05.2013, the special time scale of pay of Rs.1300 -

3000 and Grade pay of Rs.300 was granted to the sanitary workers of Village Panchayats, Panchayat Union and District offices of Rural Development Department who have completed 3 years of services on 15.09.2010. As per the above order **8,581** sanitary workers were sanctioned special time scale.

7.3.6. As per the Service Rules of RD&PR Department, the posts of Assistants / RWO Grade-I / Accountant were being filled up only by promotion from among the Junior Assistant / Typist and conversion from Steno Typists. But due to a lot of vacancies in Assistant posts, the Government have decided to fill up the posts of Assistants by direct recruitment through TNPSC as one time measure. In this regard, the Government have issued G.O. (Ms) No.35, RD & PR (E4) Department, dated. 17.05.2011 in which ordered that out of 3200 vacancies in the post of Assistants

50% of vacancies i.e., 1600 vacancies be filled up by direct recruitment through TNPSC. Upto 2013-14 out of 1600 vacancies 1534 vacancies were filled up through TNPSC. In 2014-15, the Service Rules for Directly recruited Assistants in RD & PR Department will be framed.

7.3.7. The Government in G.O. No.103, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SGS-IV) Department, dated 08.08.2013 have sanctioned Rs. 662.50 Lakhs for the construction of Guest House in 12,500 sq.ft. at Chitlapakkam, St. Thomas Mount Block Development Office premises for the Officers of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department who come to Chennai on official purpose. District Rural Development Agency, Kancheepuram is the implementing agency and preliminary works regarding the construction of Guest house have been started.

7.3.8. Also the Government in G.O. No.168, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SGS-IV) Department, dated 05.11.2013 have sanctioned Rs. 699.20 Lakhs for the construction of Staff Quarters in 15,200 sq.ft. at Madhuravoyal for the officers working in the Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. District Rural Development Agency, Tiruvallur is the implementing agency. Preliminary works have been started regarding construction of staff quarters.

7.3.9. Under Part II scheme 2014-15, it is proposed to construct a Residential Quarters for Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Tiruchirappalli District at a cost of Rs. 50.00 lakhs, additional building for Engineering section at District Rural Development Agency, Thoothukudi district at an estimated cost of Rs. 32.00 Lakhs and it is also proposed to provide 3 vehicles at a cost of

Rs.18.00 Lakhs to the Personal Assistants (Development) to the District Collectors of Perambalur, Thoothukudi and Kanyakumari districts.

- 7.3.10.** Under Scheme component of Pooled Assigned Revenue, 33 vehicles have been purchased during the year 2014 – 15. Out of which 8 Vehicles are in lieu of condemnation of old vehicles and 25 vehicles for the newly created posts.

7.4. Capacity Building

Capacity Building of Elected Representatives of rural local bodies, Officers and Functionaries of the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department is an important tool to perform their duties and responsibilities in an effective manner and for successful implementation of rural development programmes. The State Institute of Rural Development at the State level and 5 Regional Institutes of Rural Development at Sathiya Vijaya Nagaram in Tiruvannamalai District, Krishnagiri in Krishnagiri District, Pattukkottai

in Thanjavur District, Bhavanisagar in Erode District and T.Kallupatti in Madurai District are entrusted with the task of imparting training.

7.4.1. Training participants for Regional Institutes of Rural Development

Training to Officials and Functionaries of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Village Panchayat Presidents, Self Help Group members and Sectoral Department Officials are also trained in the Regional Institutes of Rural Development.

7.4.2. Training Programmes

The training programmes of the Regional Institutes of Rural Development covers various topics viz., Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, Panchayat Administration, Accounts and audit, Schemes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Rural Sanitation, Solid Waste Management and Non-Conventional Energy. Emphasis is also given on technical aspects and computer training. It is proposed to train minimum of 5,000 persons to maximum of 25,000 persons in each Regional Institute of Rural Development during the year 2014-15.

7.4.3. Establishment

Regional Institutes of Rural Development are headed by Principals in the cadre of Additional Director /Joint Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

7.4.4. Fund

The Government of Tamil Nadu provides funds to the Regional Institutes of Rural Development for the salary and non-salary expenditure. The Government of India provides Rs.20 lakhs every year to each Regional Institute of Rural Development as recurring grant for the training programmes.

7.4.5.State Institute of Rural Development

SIRD was established in the year 1961 and was registered as a Society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975 in the year 1990. The institution started functioning in its own campus at Maraimalainagar, Kancheepuram District since 1991.

7.4.6. Objective of SIRD

The primary objective of SIRD is to facilitate various target group of participants to update their knowledge base, upgrade their personal skill and change their attitudes so that they can implement the various schemes of the Government efficiently.

7.4.7.Faculty members and Administrative staff

The Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned the posts of Faculty members and administrative staff for the institute to organize training programmes and other related activities of the Institute. Further, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India have permitted SIRD to engage 5 core Faculties on contract basis as Resource Persons / Consultants.

7.4.8. Resources for Training

SIRD receives financial support for conducting training programmes from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India, National Institute of

Rural Development, Hyderabad and the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India etc. SIRD receives grants-in-aid for administrative expenses to meet the salary and non-salary item of expenditure. To augment the infrastructure facilities, 100% grants are provided by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for construction of buildings for hostels, training halls and teaching equipment.

7.4.9. Training participants

The training is conducted to the Elected Representatives of PRIs, Officers & other functionaries of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Members of SHGs, PLFs, Community Resource Persons, Village Volunteers, Resource Persons, Trainers, NGOs and others.

7.4.10. Training Methodology

The institute adopts different training methodologies which includes 'lecture cum discussion method', games, role plays, energizers, Participatory learning techniques, panel discussion, case study presentation,

experience sharing, exposure visits, chart preparation, Group based works and so on.

7.4.11. Conduct of Training Programmes

The institute conducts residential programmes in its campus at Maraimalai Nagar and off-campus programmes at District, Block and Village Panchayat levels through District Administration and RIRDs.

7.4.12. Resource Persons

Apart from its own faculty, SIRD engages Resource Persons from National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, National Informatics Centre, Chennai, Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai, Anna Institute of Management, Chennai, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kattupakkam and Tindivanam etc. SIRD also utilizes the services of best Village Panchayat Presidents, serving and retired Officials, District Level Master Trainers, Community Resource Persons from Mahalir Thittam (Mathi) of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Limited for training programmes as resource persons.

7.4.13. Infrastructure

Infrastructures facilities such as air-conditioned Conference Halls, Library with reading room, Computer Lab with Internet facility, Hostel to accommodate participants with boarding facility, automatic genset and audio visual equipments for conducting training programmes are available in SIRD.

7.4.14. Achievements in 2013-14

- Training on Information Communication Technology Skills (Computer application) imparted to Village Panchayat Presidents and Block Panchayat Chairpersons and District Panchayat Chairpersons, Village Panchayat Secretaries under RGSY. 16,103 persons were trained on computer application.
- Training on implementation of MGNREGS given to the Worksite Facilitators under MGNREGS. 49,673 persons were trained.
- The construction of new hostel building at a cost of Rs. 1436.13 lakh and a multifunctional Hall at a cost of Rs. 814.31 lakh in the SIRD campus has been

entrusted to DRDA Kancheepuram. The works are under progress.

- During the year 2013-14, the Institute imparted training to 2,19,891 participants. Out of this coverage, 90,275 are PRIs and 1,29,616 are Officers and functionaries.

7.4.15. Thrust Areas during 2014-15

A. Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhyan (RGPSA)

RGPSA is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India and the State Government. The cost of the programme is being shared by the GoI and the State Government in the ratio of 75:25 respectively. Under the scheme, the following activities are proposed to be undertaken:

- i. Setting up of State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC) at SIRD at a cost of Rs. 1 Crore.** The SPRC will comprise of a Training hall with modern teaching aids, rooms for Panchayat Faculty/Consultants and a library. The SPRC will develop training curriculum, trained resource persons,

prepare training materials, undertake action research etc .

ii. Construction of Building & Provision of Equipment for District Panchayat Resource Centre (DPRC) in 3 Districts at a cost of Rs 50 lakhs each.

iii. Provision of teaching aids / equipments for Block Level Resource Centres (BPRC) at a cost of Rs.10 lakhs per Block in 100 BRCs. Each BRC will be provided equipments such as Computer Printer/Scanner, Smart Boards, Overhead Projectors, Colour copier and Intercom.

iv. Exposure visits within the State and outside the State

It is proposed to organize exposure visits to the best practices in the state for 200 select Elected Representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions at a cost of Rs.12.00 lakhs. Similarly exposure visit outside the State will be organized for 200 select Elected Representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions at a cost of Rs.30.00 lakhs.

v. Training programmes

Training will be conducted on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Health and Nutrition, Water supply and sanitation, Environment and Disaster Management, Leadership and communication skills, Panchayat Raj administration, Implementation of RD Schemes, Women Village Panchayat Presidents and SC/ST Village Panchayat Presidents.

7.4.15.B. Community Based Disaster Risk Management:

CBDRM (Community Based Disaster Risk Management) is one of the sub-components of CDRRP (Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project) being implemented by Government of Tamil Nadu with World Bank assistance. SIRD has been nominated as the Project Implementing Agency. The objective of the Project is to reduce community vulnerabilities and strengthen their ability to proactively cope with disasters and natural hazards through preparation of Village Disaster Risk Reduction Plan. The primary stakeholders are the vulnerable communities living in the

coastal villages, and the secondary stakeholders are the rural Local Bodies, Community Based Organization and NGOs in and around the area, Resource Persons, functionaries of the Government Departments.

The project will be implemented in coastal villages of Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore, Kanniyakumari, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Villupuram, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Thiruvarur, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli District. The total cost of the Project is Rs.15.00 crore for the period from June 2013 to July 2018

During 2014-15 it has been proposed to give training to 2,55,223 persons at a cost of Rs.2,285.13 lakh.

8. PUDHU VAAZHVU PROJECT

8. PUDHU VAAZHVU PROJECT

Tamil Nadu Pudhu Vaazhvu Project is an innovative effort of Government of Tamil Nadu in its endeavor to eliminate poverty and develop a comprehensive development process. Assisted by World Bank, the Tamil Nadu Pudhu Vaazhvu Project (TNPVP), following the Community Driven Development (CDD) approach has developed the poor and under privileged, mainstreaming them into the development process, made them resolve, decide, participate, contribute, implement and monitor their progress and development. The project adopts participatory methodologies and transparent resource distribution at local level, through scientific and rigorous targeting of poor for addressing the challenges of access to entitlements, enhancing livelihoods and empowerment of the poor.

The Project has developed strong and responsive Community Based Organizations (CBOs) which is accountable. These pro-poor institutional platforms play a vital role in developing the capacities and skills of the poor, facilitate and support sustainable livelihoods

with transparent governance and social accountability.

8.1. Project Area and Coverage

Pudhu Vaazhvu Project in Tamil Nadu was launched in November 2005 covering 2509 Village Panchayats in 70 backward Blocks of 16 districts covering 5.8 lakh households, with an outlay of Rs.717 crores. During 2011-12 this Project was extended covering an additional 1665 Village Panchayats in 50 Blocks of 10 new Project districts reaching 3.8 lakh households at a cost of Rs. 950 crores. Including the additional project area, the project at present covers 9.6 lakh households.

8.2. Objectives

The objectives of Pudhu Vaazhvu Project are

- Socio-economic empowerment and upliftment of the poor including vulnerable by improving the living standards through robust and responsible Community Based Organizations.

- Build the capacities of the poor and financing sustainable livelihood activities.
- With well-built mechanisms for social accountability and transparency in place the project is implemented employing the CDD method following the key non-negotiable principles across all stakeholders.

8.3. Project strategy

Adopting the Community Driven Development approach, the project strives to empower the poor after identifying and assessing their needs, delivering through targeted interventions for empowering them, increasing their income by providing sustainable livelihood opportunities and channelizing the benefits and entitlements from various Government programmes by liaising and working closely with concerned line departments.

The project follows two different strategies in its project areas, to achieve its objectives in livelihood and empowerment.

- The first strategy focuses on revisiting, strengthening, consolidating and amalgamating the efforts and investments made for socio economic development of target communities in the 16 phase I project districts. The strategic activities will focus around nourishing the sustainability interventions of all grass root level Community Based Organizations and propelling to take up vertical expansion of Project activities by strengthening second generation institutional federations - MaKaMai. The focus will remain in making noteworthy impact on sustainable livelihoods and empowerment of the target community through its strong MaKaMais.
- The second strategy will apply to 10 new Project districts under additional financing. The attention will be on similar strategies that were adopted in the Phase I Project districts for reaching out and mainstreaming the poor and vulnerable in terms of social mobilization

and empowerment. Extension support would continue to be provided by MaKaMai. All the project processes followed in Phase I are replicated with observance to the non-negotiable principles and good Governance practices.

8.4.Institutional arrangement

8.4.1.State level

The project is governed by Tamil Nadu Pudhu Vaazhvu Society, an apex body chaired by the Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. State Project Management Unit (SPMU) is headed by the Project Director and assisted by a multi-disciplinary team of Specialists. The State unit provides overall administration, supervision, facilitation and monitors the implementation of the Project.

8.4.2.District level

The District Project Management Unit (DPMU) is also a Society which functions under the Chairmanship of the District Collector. The District Project Manager heads the operational

unit at District level, supported by a team of Assistant Project Managers and the Project Facilitation team at each Cluster.

8.4.3. Cluster level

At the cutting edge level a five member Project Facilitation Team provides hand holding support to a cluster of 10-15 Village Panchayats in implementing the project activities.

8.4.4.Village level

The Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC), an inclusive and self-governed people's institution comprising of the target poor identified by the project through its systematic process of participatory identification. The VPRC implements the project at the village level. It is focused in establishing strong community based organizations, that ensures, delivery of specific services to the poor, vulnerable including differently abled and tribal, harnessing their innate capabilities and conferring strong resilience in them to come out of poverty.

With Panchayat President as its President, the VPRC has evolved into an influential grass root level body implementing all project activities at field level, reaching out and meeting the needs of the target poor, proficient in taking up any social activity and thereby ensuring last mile delivery of services. The VPRCs double up as Village Knowledge Centers which assist in securing entitlements and access to Government schemes, market prices, telemedicine, career guidance etc.

8.5. Major Activities

8.5.1. Awareness creation through continuous IEC activities and methodical Capacity Building Programmes, ensures competence and capability of all the Community Based Organizations in creating a demand and targeted service delivery to the identified poor.

8.5.2. Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) is a strong and transparent methodology used along with social mapping and wealth ranking to identify and categorize the target poor who will receive direct project benefits. The project also facilitates entitlements and

assistance from Government to the target poor while evolving strategies to help them steer clear of poverty.

8.5.3. Village institutions

- Village Poverty Reduction Committees concentrate on all the needs of the target communities including access to services and entitlements ensuring the wants are met either through project funds or converging with other programmes.
- Social Audit Committees (SAC) act as a watchdog ensuring adherence to non-negotiable principles of the project. It monitors all project processes and activities of all CBOs and reports directly to Grama Sabha.
- Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) function as a financial intermediary fulfilling the credit needs of the Self Help Groups (SHGs) by leveraging funds from banks, NABARD (ADFT) and accessing project funds.

- Common Livelihood Group (CLG) is an aggregate of individual livelihood activities which are similar at Panchayat level. Common Livelihood Groups support the poor in generating income and building livelihoods by helping them capitalize on economies of scale and access to market, common facilities and raw material procurement support to its members.

All the above mentioned community based organizations ensure last mile delivery of services. They are ably facilitated by the project staff to meet the demands of the target community by themselves thereby ensuring long term sustainability.

8.5.4. Vulnerability reduction and social security is ensured through the Community based organizations focused on specific service delivery to the target poor, youth, vulnerable including differently abled and tribal. The main focus is, to see that the target category graduates to the next level on the empowerment ladder. The project adopts participatory resource mapping to ascertain

and categorize the possible risks and enable creation of sustainable livelihoods. Social security is done through insuring, life, asset, health, and access to Social security schemes (pensions), medical needs, food and other consumption wants. To prevent the poor from slipping back into the vicious cycle of poverty, the vulnerability reduction processes provide enough scope for the target households to adopt mechanisms.

8.5.5. Skill building to youth for employment is one of the major components under livelihood promotion. It focusses in identifying the needs of youth, linking with the job market and by providing skill training based on the requirements of the skill in demand. Youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years who are unemployed/ under employed are provided suitable training to improve their skills or participate in job fairs and facilitate direct employment opportunities.

8.5.6. Livelihood activities are promoted through Common Livelihood Groups (CLGs) at intra-village level for creating assets through income generating activities. It aims to build

on existing livelihoods, identify opportunities for new livelihoods (both farm and non-farm) based on prospects and scope for sustainability and marketing. These CLGs are provided project support in the form of common infrastructure and facilitated to capitalize on economies of scale, common procurement of raw materials and marketing arrangements.

8.6. Second Level Institutional Federations

Second Level Institutional Federations (MaKaMai) have been promoted to provide facilitation, monitoring, close handholding support and ensure sustainability to grass root level community based organizations to reach out to the needs of the community even after the withdrawal of the project by comprehensively involving them in project implementation. The Federations will provide support to the primary community institutions, strengthen them to give quality service to the target people, monitor them periodically, identify and promote collective efforts in livelihoods and find solutions to emerging inter-village issues including conflict resolution among Community Based Organizations. These

Federations will receive project funds based on their performance and their grass root level organizations.

8.7. Common Livelihood Federations

The CLGs created by aggregating similar livelihood activities are federated and formed as Common Livelihood Federations (CLFs) at higher level, either at inter-village level, cluster, block or District Level. These Federations ensure sustainability of CLGs through quality of products, certification, product diversification, value addition, bulk procurement, processing, storage facilities and market linkage.

8.8. TNPVP as a National Resource Organization

Government of India have identified TNPVP as a National Resource Organization for peer learning and providing technical assistance to other States and within Tamil Nadu to facilitate mutual support and learning. This Unit is embedded within TNPVP and it has started functioning.

8.9. Pudhu Vaazhvu Mental Health Programme (PVHMP)

Pudhu Vaazhvu Mental Health Programme (PVHMP) is implemented through Japan Policy for Human Resource Development (JPHRD) grant fund. It is one of the pioneer Community based programmes of the Government implemented through pro poor organizations in reaching persons with mental disabilities such as Mental Illness and Mental Retardation. The VPRCs provide technical assistance through Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) besides converging with the Health Department. Community based screening, clinical care, awareness creation, livelihood support, rehabilitation and mainstreaming the persons are the major activities involved under this project.

Table 8.1
Achievements during 2013-14

S.No	Activity	Physical	Financial (Rs. in Crores)
Project Fund Achievements			
1.	SHGs formed and assisted		-
a.	Women & Youth	3,197	
b.	Differently abled	1,824	
2.	Differently abled and vulnerable given assistance to start livelihood activities	46,765	-
3.	Youth given job skill training and fund released	47,047	2.09
4.	Youth gainfully employed	33,712	-
5.	PLFs restructured and Livelihood corpus fund released	209	38.48
6.	CLGs formed and fund released	856	2.79
Non- Project Fund Achievements			
7.	SHGs received first dose of bank credit	26,046	178.30
8.	SHGs received second and third dose of bank credit	16,685	259.01
9.	Differently abled received maintenance grant through project intervention	4,977	0.50
10.	Differently abled persons received aids and appliances	7,200	9.54
11.	Aged persons received Old Age Pension	54,590	5.50

8.10. Impact of the project

Preliminary results of the Impact Evaluation survey done by an External agency (GFK Mode and Social Observatory of World Bank) indicates that PVP has been successful in reducing the high cost debt burden by 29.29% and moving the livelihoods portfolio towards more skilled employment. Percentage of skilled workers within a household is 31.57% higher in PVP areas. It has also improved the asset portfolio. Asset index is higher by 22.42 units which implies higher level of asset holding in project villages. MGNREGA has been more effective as a social safety net in PVP areas. As a secondary livelihood activity for a household, percentage of individuals working in MGNREGA is 15.27% higher.

One of the major impacts of PVP has been on political participation. Percentage of women respondents who attended last Gram Sabha was 65.48% higher in project areas.

PVP has been successful not only in increasing the voice of women in intra-household decision making process but also

has made them more proactive when faced with problems in public spaces. Percentage of households where the women respondents took decisions regarding the choice of their livelihood activity was 21.01% higher in Pudhu Vaazhvu project areas.

8.11. Financial Performance

The expenditure incurred under the original project and additional financing in new project areas from 01.04.2013 to 31.03.2014 was Rs.174.86 crores.

A sum of Rs.155.04 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2014-2015 for both existing and new Project areas.

9. TAMILNADU CORPORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

9. TAMILNADU CORPORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women was established in the year 1983 to reduce poverty, bring economic development and socio-economic changes in the State by forming women into Self Help Groups and imparting skill training, networking them into Federations, providing bank loans to venture into small scale enterprises. It implements the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) from the year 2012-13 with the aim of providing sustainable livelihoods to the economically weaker sections of the society in the State.

TNSRLM is implemented in the State for the upliftment of the poor, by creating integrated action plan with components of women empowerment and livelihood initiatives. In accordance with the Tamil Nadu Vision 2023, community based organizations are strengthened to enhance the managerial skills of the rural poor towards their economic development. Through this strategy, the weaker sections are able to access economic

opportunities, modern infrastructure facilities and a conducive environment for harmonized growth in the State.

9.1. Mahalir Thittam

Tamil Nadu Government is implementing the “Mahalir Thittam” with the objective of bringing socio-economic empowerment of women in rural and urban areas by forming them into Self Help Groups. TNCDW provides seed money, economic assistance to start small scale enterprises, capacity building to make them professional entrepreneurs and marketing support to bring sustained economic development through various programmes.

Table 9.1

Status of Progress (As on 31.03.2014)

Sl.No.	Details	Achievements
1	Total No. of SHGs	5.86 lakh
2	Total No. of SHG Members	88.70 lakh
3	Bank Credit Linkage	Rs.25,701 crore
4	Total Savings	Rs.4,510 crore
5	Total No. of PLFs	12,524
6	No.of PLFs availed Bulk Loan	1,251
	Amount released	Rs.288 crore

9.2. Activities under Mahalir Thittam

9.2.1. Awards to Bankers for strengthening the community institutions viz SHGs & PLFs

Awards are instituted at State and District level to encourage the stake holders who support SHG movement. These awards not only recognize the services of the achievers but also motivate others to achieve the same.

Table 9.2**Awards to Bankers Details**

Sl.No	Name of the award	Prize Details
A	State Level Best Performing Bank Award	Awards to First three Banks - Memento and Certificate
B	State Level Best Performing Exclusive SHG / Women Bank Branch Award	1 st Award – Rs. 1 Lakh 2 nd Award – Rs. 75,000
C	State Level Best Performing Other Bank Branch Award	1 st Award – Rs. 1 Lakh 2 nd Award – Rs. 75,000 3 rd Award – Rs. 50,000
D	District Level Best Bank Award	One – Memento and certificate
E	District Level Best Bank Branch Award	1 st Award – Rs. 15,000 2 nd Award – Rs. 10,000 3 rd Award – Rs. 5,000

9.2.2. Awards to the Best SHGs and Panchayat Level Federations

In order to encourage good governance and raise social awareness among SHGs, awards have been instituted for SHGs and PLFs at State, District and Block level. These awards are intended to honour the recipients so that others can follow their best practices and perform better.

**Table 9.3
SHG / PLF Awards Details**

Sl.No	Name of the award	Prize Details
A	State Level Awards to 10 Best SHGs	Rs. 1.00 Lakh each
B	District Level Awards to 3 Best SHGs	Rs. 25,000/- each
C	Block level Award to 1 SHG	Certificate
2	Award to Best PLFs	
A	State level Awards to 5 Best PLFs	Rs. 3.00 Lakh each
B	District level Award to 1 Best PLF	Rs. 1.00 Lakh

9.2.3. Awards to PLFs with 100% Literate SHG members

“Knowledge is serene and indestructible wealth;
There is nothing else in benefits to compare.”

Adhering to the sayings of the saintly poet Thiruvalluvar, Government of Tamil Nadu which implements various schemes for sustainable livelihood for women has instituted an award to motivate the women to obtain education which is the first among all wealth. These awards encourage the literate SHG members to motivate their illiterate peers in their Federation to learn and reach 100% literacy among all SHG members in the Federation. Government of Tamil Nadu have instituted an award carrying a cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and a Certificate of Merit to the Panchayat Level Federations with 100% literate SHG members. Annually 30 Federations are given this award.

A sum of Rs.15.00 lakh will be spent for this award during the year 2014-15.

9.2.4. Awards to SHGs who Fight Against Social Evils

In appreciation of the fact that the economic development of a society with social disparities will not be sustainable, the Government have instituted an award to honor the SHGs who fight bravely against social injustice and violence perpetrated against women. At the state level, 5 SHGs will be awarded with a cash prize of Rs.1.00 lakh each for their valiant action.

A sum of Rs. 5 lakh will be spent towards this award during the year 2014-15.

9.2.5. Individual Identity Card to SHG Members

Identity Cards instill confidence in SHG members, while they approach government departments, banks and other agencies. Individual identity cards are issued to SHG members to avoid sanction of more than one benefit or opportunities to the same member under various programs and multiple membership in SHGs. So far identity cards have been issued to 4.67 lakh SHG members in 60 Phase-I Blocks of TNSRLM. This scheme will be expanded to the remaining blocks also.

9.2.6. Cultural Competitions

Cultural competitions are conducted among the members of SHGs and PLFs at block and district level with an objective to bring out the inherent talent, unity and team spirit among the members of SHG and PLF. In view of the overwhelming success of the cultural competitions in the previous years and its usefulness in promoting unity among the SHG members, cultural competitions were held at a cost of Rs. 160 lakh during 2013-14. The cultural competitions among SHG members will be continued in 2014-15.

9.2.7. SHG Bank Linkage Programme

SHG Bank Linkage programme has developed an interface between banks and SHGs for sanction of loan for economic activity and consumption purpose and has also inculcated the habit of prompt repayment. Timely credit provided by banks to SHGs / PLFs at a low rate of interest enables the women to attain economic empowerment by increasing the investment in livelihoods activities and obtain more income thereby reducing the debt burden. Tamil Nadu is one of the pioneer states

under the SHG Bank Linkage Programme in India with a quantum of Rs. 6,000 crore credit. Continuous savings, proper maintenance of books of accounts, internal lending among members and prompt repayment are the best practices of SHGs in our State. So far Rs.25,701 crore have been provided as bank credit linkage to the SHGs in our State. During the year 2013-14, a higher order target of Rs.6,000 crore was fixed and the same has been achieved.

9.2.8. Bulk Loan to Panchayat Level Federations

Panchayat Level Federations have been promoted as the Community Based Organization to strengthen and lead the SHG movement by providing various financial and non-financial services to the SHGs. The Panchayat Level Federations obtain bulk loan from banks and onlend to their member SHGs for consumption and economic purposes. As the credit obtained from banks by SHGs are inadequate to cater to their needs, the PLF bulk loan is used as an additional source of finance to SHGs. So far 1,251 PLFs have been

provided bulk loan by various banks to the tune of Rs.288 crore.

9.2.9. Interest Subvention to SHGs

Interest subvention is one of the sub components of TNSRLM. Under this component the interest charged by the banks over and above 7% on SHG loans upto Rs. 3 lakh is reimbursed to the groups so that the SHGs get bank loan at an effective rate of 7% interest. This is being implemented in two methods

- i) In 150 districts selected at national level, banks will lend to all women SHGs upto an aggregated loan amount of Rs.3 lakh at the rate of 7% interest. These SHGs will also get an additional interest subvention of 3% on prompt repayment, reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%. Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Dharmapuri districts have been selected in Tamil Nadu under this category of interest subvention scheme.
- ii) In the remaining 27 districts, interest paid over and above 7% on a loan upto Rs. 3 lakh will be reimbursed to the SHGs. In

these districts as per the TNSRLM norms, SHGs with 75% membership from PIP category only will be eligible for interest subvention.

This programme has been rolled out from Kancheepuram district. In 2014-15 this programme will be implemented in all districts. For the year 2013-14, a sum of Rs.44 crores has been released. Further, for 2014-15, Rs.52 crore financial outlay has been earmarked under this programme.

9.3. Marketing of SHG Products

In the competitive market space, SHG members have to improve their skills and market their products. In order to build their capacity, TNCDW undertakes activities such as market intelligence and survey, market research, packaging support, establishment of sales outlets and conduct of sales exhibitions. Additionally, trade activities are under taken in co-ordination with other institutions to enhance the quality and sale of SHG products. 100 "Mathi" Mobile shops and sales outlets are being established in urban areas, particularly in tourist places, trade centers and in places

where people gather in large numbers such as airports, railway stations, bus stands, temples, Government offices and institutions for promoting sale of Self Help Group products.

9.3.1. Branding and Packaging of SHG products

SHG products are of good quality and are reasonably priced. Yet they are unable to sell their products in commercial stores due to lack of common brand, labeling and packaging to attract the customers. Last year the Government have taken necessary steps to bring in all SHG products under common brand name and logo to attract the consumers across the State. During 2014-15 advanced training will be given to SHGs involved in production activities by TNCDW on marketing skills and focus will be given to market value added products. A nodal agency will be appointed at State level to develop labeling and packaging methods to attract consumers. The marketing complex in the district will be vested with PLF identified by the district committee to market quality SHG products based on market demand.

9.3.2. Mathi Bazaar

An e-commerce website "Mathi Bazaar" has been introduced to improve the sale of SHG products based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This website has facilities for online payment and home delivery that creates a good opportunity to market the SHG hand made products. This e-commerce initiative will provide visibility to the SHG products across the globe.

9.3.3. Exhibitions

TNCDW organizes sales exhibitions successfully every year to popularize and market SHG products at National and State level. During 2013-14 SHG products to the value of Rs.188 lakh were sold out in these exhibitions. The State level exhibition named "Mahalir Mela" is organized with innovative publicity where in SHG products to the value of Rs.418 lakh has been sold out in the last three years. The feasibility of participating in international exhibitions will be explored.

9.3.4. College Bazaar

"College Bazaars" are conducted in Colleges and Universities during functions and important events with an aim to popularize the SHG products among the Youth. During 2013-14, 152 College Bazaars were conducted wherein 3,232 SHGs participated and sold products to the value of Rs.218.47 lakh. It has been planned to conduct college bazaars, during 2014-15 to enhance the support of youth for the livelihood initiatives of poor women.

9.3.5. Marketing of SHG products through State / District Supply & Marketing Society

The State Supply and Marketing Society (SSMS) has been formed and registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. This society has been established with the objective of promoting the sale of SHG products at National, State and District Level. All District Supply and Marketing Societies have been linked to the SSMS. In addition to organizing special sales exhibition at State, District and Block level, these societies

encourage the SHGs to improve their sales in the competitive market by value addition and attractive packaging.

9.3.6. Common Livelihood Group (CLG).

SHG members, as individuals or as groups are involved in various production activities in farm and non-farm sectors. As they are not networked, their economic activities are not able to scale up to obtain sustainability. Hence all SHG members involved in the same activity in an area will be aggregated and common infrastructure, marketing support and other capacity building training will be provided to enable them to improve productivity, reach out to new markets and earn higher income.

To sustain the efforts of the CLGs, corpus fund is sanctioned to each CLG which is intended for capacity building, promotion of common infrastructure, facilitating common procurement of raw materials and marketing arrangements. This corpus fund will be released after six months from the formation of CLGs based on eligibility criteria. Necessary training will be imparted to the CLG members about Governance and Entrepreneurship.

9.4. Plastic Recycling Units

To emphasize that environmental concern is an important component of livelihood initiatives, 23 plastic waste recycle units have been established in the state at a cost of Rs. 3.75 lakh each and managed by SHGs. Plastic wastes are collected and shredded in these units that are used to lay bitumen roads. Environment Protection and Renewable Energy Development Fund is utilized for this activity. Recycled plastic waste to the tune of Rs. 94.10 lakh has been sold so far.

9.5. SHG Basic Literacy Programme

Literacy is an essential component for sustained livelihood for women. This programme is conceived to provide basic education to illiterate SHG women. Select PLF members are trained as Training of Trainers (ToT) in the basic literacy program. Through these trained PLF members, basic literacy training will be imparted to illiterate SHG members for a period of six months. The SHG literacy programme is implemented in 22 districts covering 180 blocks for 50,000 SHGs

at a cost of Rs 9.50 crore excluding the 9 districts already covered by the Directorate of Non Formal and Adult Education Training Institute and State Resource Centre.

9.6. Incentive to Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) /Urban Neighbourhood Federations (UNFs)

Federations of SHGs in urban and rural areas provide a platform for economic and social opportunities. These federations are legal entities registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. PLFs are capacitated in the areas of Governance, Financial Management, Social Audit, etc., to make them effective community institutions. Whatever SHGs could not achieve individually, PLFs can achieve by pooling their resources and collective initiatives to exploit economies of scale both in production and marketing.

An incentive of Rs.1 lakh is given to each successfully graded PLF/UNF to encourage the functioning of the Federations. Up to 2012-13, 8,000 successfully graded Federations have been given incentive to the tune of Rs. 80 crore i.e. Rs.78.50 crore for PLFs and Rs.1.50

crore for UNFs. For the year 2013-14 a sum of Rs. 40 crore has been released to provide incentives to 4,000 PLFs.

9.7. Gender Sensitization Training

In order to prevent atrocities against women, the Government issued an order in GO (Ms) No.86 RD & PR,(CGS-3) Department dated 23.07.2013, to conduct training on Gender sensitization to the elected local body representatives and the office bearers of the Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) in all the 12,524 village panchayats in a phased manner. The topics covered are Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Mental and Emotional health of women, Understanding violence against women & Violence in general instruments to protect and promote Women Rights, Developing supporting mechanism for women in conflict situation, Trafficking, Forms of Trafficking, Causative factors and 13 point plan, curbing sexual offences against women. The budget cost of Rs.1.25 crore has been allotted for the year 2013-14 and the trainings are imparted in 2,323 village panchayats.

9.8.1. Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission and its Objectives.

Tamil Nadu Government is implementing special schemes in a focused manner to eradicate poverty and improve the economic well being of the rural poor. Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the major anti-poverty programme has been restructured based on the World Bank assisted Pudhu Vaazhvu Project (PVP) and is being implemented as Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM) from 2012-13.

This mission is being implemented in the blocks except where the Pudhu Vaazhvu Project is implemented. The following are its objectives.

- Building vibrant and dynamic people's institutions for the rural poor.
- Holistic action to promote the livelihoods of the poor including the vulnerable and differently abled.
- Identifying the talents of the rural poor and to enhance them through training.

- Convergence with the Government departments and NGOs to leverage their financial and non-financial services and utilize them in an effective manner.
- Increase the family income and enhance the livelihoods of the rural poor.
- Creation of new opportunities based on the local resources and value addition
- Improve the quality of rural SHG products and provide opportunities to market the same.
- Social empowerment of rural poor by building their confidence and bringing out their inherent abilities.
- Equip the rural poor to access their basic rights and make them protect their environment and sanitation.

9.8.2. Project Area and Scope

Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission is implemented in 31 Districts except Chennai in 265 blocks in three phases, excluding 120 blocks covered under the Pudhu Vaazhvu Project. Out of this, World Bank

supported NRLP is implemented in 16 blocks in 4 districts namely Trichy, Erode, The Nilgiris and Thanjavur based on the '**proof of concept**'. Community investment fund, staff structure and other support to the poor adopted therein are followed in TNSRLM.

9.8.3. High Level Empowered Committee

A High Level Empowered Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons. This committee provides the policy level guidance and monitor the implementation of the Mission activities. The Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department is the Mission Director and the Managing Director, TNCDW is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mission. Dedicated implementation structure has been created at State, District, Block and Cluster level.

Table 9.4

Project Wise Distribution of Blocks

Sl. No	Project	District	Blocks	Clusters	Panchayats
1	TNPVP	26	120	302	4,174
2	TNSRLM	31	249	694	7,892
3	NRLP	4	16	48	458
Total		31	385	1,044	12,524

Table 9.5

Yearwise TNSRLM implementation

Sl.No	Unit	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1.	Districts	15	27	21
2.	Blocks	60	110	95
3.	Village Panchayats	2,323	3,491	2536
4.	Poor Household (in Lakhs)	7.76	8.85	11.12

9.8.4. Major activities of TNSRLM

The TNSRLM consists of three major components namely, Livelihoods promotion activities for rural poor, Placement Linked Skill Training and Mahila Kissan Sashaktikaran

Pariyojana (Women Farmers Empowerment Programme)

i. Social Mobilization and Social Inclusion

TNSRLM will adopt participatory methodology for identification and inclusion of the vulnerable sectors - single women, women headed households, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, differently abled, landless, migrant labour, isolated communities and other poor. TNSRLM will also take necessary action to build their managerial capability to lead their own institutions and attain community based development.

ii. Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP)

TNSRLM adopts Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) process to identify the poor and vulnerable. The following Participatory methodologies are adopted to identify the poor and vulnerable without exclusion:

- Social Mapping

- Problem Identification and Prioritization Ranking
- Wealth Ranking and Decision Making Matrix

iii. Institutional Building

In order to eradicate poverty and vulnerability the Mission undertakes sustainable efforts and also promotes and strengthens the institutions of the poor. They are:

- Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC)
- Social Audit Committee (SAC)
- Panchayat Level Federation (PLF)
- Common Livelihoods Group (CLG)
- Self-Help Group (SHG)

iv. Skill Development approach

1. Capacity Building Programme for the Project Staff

Tamilnadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM) organizes various training programmes/ field visits for the Project Staff at

State, District, Block and Cluster levels as detailed:

The 1st induction training programme to the Project staff is given for 28 days that includes seven days village immersion, 16 days institutional training and 5 days of field placement. Two months after the completion of the above training, a 12 days second phase thematic training programme is given to the project staff. Then the Project staff will be capacitated in their respective field of operation.

Need based trainings and refresher courses are conducted periodically to improve the capacity of the project staff. As part of capacity building, exposure visits are organized to observe successful functioning institutions in Tamil Nadu and other States.

Workshops are held on topics such as, Skills and Placements, Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP), Cross Learning, so that all the project staff clearly understands the TNSRLM core values, guiding principles and implementation strategies.

2. Training of Trainers for Village Poverty Reduction Committee and Self Help Group Members

As part of capacity building programme of TNSRLM, Training of Trainers programme is organized to the Community Resource Persons, District Level Master Trainers and Bankers. The details of trainers are collected and graded based on their experience at State, District and Block level and are trained as ToTs for various programmes on TNSRLM. The ToTs train the Village Poverty Reduction Committee members, Self Help Group members, Animators & Representatives, VPRCs and PLF Book keepers as per the approved training calendar to develop them into viable Social Capital.

V. Financial Inclusion

TNSRLM works towards achieving financial inclusion to all the poor households, SHGs and their federations. It analyses both the demand and supply of financial services and take appropriate corrective actions. Opportunities are created for direct linkage by banks through repeat loans and bulk loans to

the Federations. All the branch managers of banks in the State have been sensitized on the SHG Bank Linkage Programme to ensure quality service to the SHGs.

9.8.5. Skill & Placement Programme

Due to the industrial boom in the State, there is huge demand for skilled manpower in manufacture and service sectors. Skill trainings are imparted on various trades to youth in the age group of 18 to 35 (Women up to 40) and are suitably placed. These initiatives provide an opportunity to increase the family income. During the last two years, 19,165 youth are trained in reputed institutions for skills and placements component of TNSRLM.

9.8.6. Women Farmers Empowerment Programme (MKSP)

MKSP is being implemented as a sub component of Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission. Under this programme, sustainable agriculture will be adopted in the land holdings of the poor women farmers. This project adopts strategic approaches namely increasing intensity of cropping in their land

holdings, reducing the cost of cultivation, to ensure food and nutritional security of their families and increase the net income without decline in the productivity. In order to achieve these outcomes, services of departments and agencies like Agriculture Department, Agricultural Universities, Agricultural Research Stations, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Food Corporation of India, Farmers Development Agency and Tamil Nadu Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation are harnessed to provide appropriate technical advice to the Women farmers.

9.8.7. Fund Allocation for 2014-15

For the activities of TNSRLM, a sum of Rs.256.48 crore is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2014-15.

9.9. Tamil Nadu State Non Governmental organizations and Volunteers Resource Centre (TNVRC)

Tamil Nadu State Non-Governmental Organizations and Volunteers Resource Centre (TNVRC), has been registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act and functions

under TNCDW. It plays a major role in the preparation of Training Manuals, Guide Books, training the Project Staff and resource persons of selected training institutions. In convergence with Line Departments such as TamilNadu State Aids Control Society (TANSACS) and TamilNadu Health System Project (TNHSP), TNVRC is implementing HIV / AIDS awareness programme and Non Communicable Disease (NCD) awareness Programme to SHG members. TNVRC functions as the State Resource Cell of TNSRLM as well as for Skills and Placements Wing that takes care of the activities at the State level.

9.10. MUTRAM

'Mutram' is published as a monthly magazine of Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women. This magazine disseminates useful information to women SHG subscribers in rural areas. The magazine covers wide range of topics such as Health, Sanitation, Poverty Reduction, Rural Development, Local Governance, Women Empowerment and social issues such as female infanticide, dowry and violence. It also carries

success stories, news, general knowledge and stories on successful women personalities and leaders. Mutram proves to be an effective instrument for disseminating information and social intervention. At present 80,000 SHGs are subscribing to the magazine. Approximately 16 lakhs SHG women are benefited through this magazine every month.

9.11. The Status of activities under Mahalir Thittam in 2013-14

- Rs.6,035.56 crore bank credit was provided to SHGs.
- Rs.22.45 crore was released to 112 PLFs as Bulk Loan.
- 152 college bazaars were conducted in 32 districts, where 3,232 SHG's participated and the total sales were to the tune of Rs. 218.47 lakh.
- Mathi bazaar website was launched for marketing SHG products.
- 10 plastic waste recycling units at the cost of Rs.3.75 lakh per unit was established and managed by SHGs.

- 3 state level exhibitions were conducted and SHGs products to the value of Rs.188 lakh were sold.
- 3,176 Business Correspondents were appointed and trained.
- Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Pallavan Bank were given the Best Bankers Award at the State Level for providing bank credit to the SHGs.
- Literacy awards were given to 12 PLFs for providing 100% literacy among PLF members.
- State level awards were given to 2 SHGs who fought against the social evils.
- Individual ID cards were issued to 4,67,638 members of 34,712 SHGs

9.12. The Status of activities under TNSRLM during 2013-14

- TNSRLM activity has been extended to 3,491 Village Panchayats of 110 blocks in the year 2013-14.
- TNSRLM activities are being implemented in 170 Blocks of 31 Districts until now

and the officers from the line departments, project staff, elected representatives of block and panchayats, leaders of SHG movements were oriented on its Mission activities.

- Baseline survey and IEC activities were completed in 170 blocks.
- During the year 2013-14, Village Initiation fund of Rs.11 crore was released to 3,491 Village Panchayats at the rate of Rs.25,000 to 45,000 per Panchayat, based on the population.
- Participatory Identification of Poor was completed in 4,152 Village Panchayats.
- 3,760 Village Poverty Reduction Committees and Social Audit Committees have been established.
- Rs. 95.60 crore was released as 1st Installment at the rate of Rs. 4 lakh per VPRC as Community Investment Fund to 2,390 VPRCs.
- 19,175 youth have been imparted skill training.

- 10 volumes of Community Operation Manual (COM) for TNSRLM were prepared.
- 824 Community Resources Persons were trained as Trainers on Community Operation Manual in TNSRLM at a cost of Rs. 9 lakh.
- 29,240 VPRC members were given Community Operation Manual training I & II at a cost of Rs. 90.50 lakh.
- 108 Skill Melas were conducted throughout the State and 46,306 youth participated.
- 70 Job Melas were conducted at a cost of Rs. 16 lakhs and 5,623 youth were given placement.
- Orientation trainings were given to 3,240 Panchayat representatives and other Govt officials in TNSRLM at a cost of Rs. 13.47 lakhs.
- 7,621 Panchayat Presidents and Panchayat Level Federation members were taken to exposure visit at a cost of Rs. 11.78 lakh.

10. TSUNAMI REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

10. Tsunami Rehabilitation Programmes

Tsunami Project Implementation Unit (TPIU) at Chennai was set up on 01.08.2005 to monitor the projects implemented by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

In 11 Coastal Districts under RGRP & ETRP 32,646 houses were proposed for construction and out of which 32,645 houses have been constructed through Tsunami Project Implementation Unit.

- I. Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package (RGRP) funded by Government of India (GOI) for Tsunami affected areas was taken up at an outlay of Rs.716 crores as grant for reconstruction of vulnerable houses and provision of basic amenities.
- II. Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project - Vulnerability Reduction of Coastal Community (ETRP - VRCC) Project with the assistance of the World Bank was formulated at an estimated cost of Rs.670 crores as credit for reconstruction of vulnerable houses and formation of evacuation routes with

signages. The Project is being implemented in 11 Coastal districts namely Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari districts and in addition to the above districts, construction of evacuation routes was taken up in Tiruvarur district also. The ETRP Project period ended on 31.12.2011. Before formulation of the Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project (CDRRP) the balance ETRP works were carried out using State Government funds vide G.O.(Ms)No. 179, Revenue (DM-4) Department dated 29.5.2012. The World Bank funded CDRRP agreement was signed on 11.11.2013.

I. Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package (RGRP)

RGRP funded by Government of India was implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.716 crores in 11 Coastal Districts by the Tsunami Project Implementation Unit. Reconstruction of Vulnerable Houses between

0–200 meters from the High Tide Line was the main component of this scheme.

Under this scheme out of 18,299 houses proposed for construction, Pudukottai District had not completed 1,102 houses which had been pending for a long time. This Government mobilized necessary resources and completed all 18,299 houses including the 1,102 pending houses.

II. Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project (ETRP)

Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project was formulated in 2005 for Sustained livelihoods of the Coastal Communities and also for Reconstruction of houses with the aim to reduce vulnerability. This Scheme was formulated with the financial assistance of World Bank on credit basis, at an outlay of Rs.670 crores for reconstruction of identified vulnerable houses along the coastal stretch of 200 meters to 1000 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL).

The objectives of the Project are:

- Revive livelihoods

- Ensure recovery in the Tsunami affected areas in short time
- Reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities from natural calamities like cyclone, storm surge, flood and tsunami in future

Project Components

i) Reconstruction of vulnerable houses:

15,056 houses were identified by the Revenue Department as vulnerable houses and were revalidated by the NGOs appointed as third party facilitators under this scheme.

These houses were grouped into 157 packages in 11 Coastal Districts and tenders have been finalized. Out of 15,056 houses identified, 14,347 houses were found eligible and construction for 5,413 houses in 61 packages under Phase I and 8,934 houses in 96 packages under Phase II have been taken up. The total agreement value of these houses is Rs.543.42 crores.

Under this scheme, out of 14,347 houses, 14,346 houses have been completed except 1 house in Nagapattinam District pending due to Court case

The beneficiaries are paid Rs.1000/- as one time shifting allowance and Rs.500/- per month as rent for a period of 18 months.

ii) Provision of evacuation routes with signages:

The laying of evacuation routes with signages along the coastal areas to provide 'easy escape' to the safer shelters in times of emergencies. 143 works for a length of 41 kms. have been completed at an expenditure of Rs.21.77 crores.

**11. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
(IFAD) ASSISTED POST
TSUNAMI SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME**

**11.INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
assisted POST TSUNAMI SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME**

A decade has passed over since the dreadful Tsunami of 2004 that wrecked havoc on the lives and properties along the East Coast of Tamilnadu. The Government of Tamilnadu had converged all the resources at their disposal to undertake relief and rehabilitation works which were widely acclaimed internationally. After amelioration of initial shock, the community's needs on basic amenities and infrastructure were effectively addressed. These restoration efforts were topped up with Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods programme (PTSLP) with the assistance of International Fund for Agricultural Development to provide sustainable livelihoods to the affected coastal population.

11.1. Programme at a glance

Project Districts	:	Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Villupuam, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam & Kanyakumari
Panchayats & Blocks covered	:	109 Panchayats in 24 Blocks
Population covered	:	1.55 lakh household with about 6 lakh population
Cost	:	Rs.283.69 crore
Duration	:	9 years (Upto 2017)

11.2. Aim

The programme envisages building self-reliant coastal communities, which are able to manage their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. This would be achieved with the objective of developing viable enterprises and resource management systems, owned and operated by women in the region affected by the Tsunami and supported by the community and other appropriate institutions.

11.3. People Targeted

Coastal dwellers (in villages directly or indirectly affected by the Tsunami) i.e,

- i) Wage labour employed in the fisheries and agriculture sectors;
- ii) Coastal fishers using beach launched craft;
- iii) Small-scale women fish vendors and processors;
- iv) Small and marginal farmers ;
- v) Very poor and poor identified through Participatory Rural Appraisal exercise
- vi) Marginalized occupation groups (e.g seashell workers)

11.4. Strategy

With a multi pronged approach through the following components, the programme aims to provide sustainable livelihoods to the coastal community.

- I. Coastal Area Resource Management
- II. Rural Finance and Risk Transfer Instruments

- III. Employment Generation and Skill Training
- IV. Community based Sea Safety and Disaster Management

i) Coastal Area Resource Management

a. Community Support: In the grass roots level, 5-7 coastal panchayats are grouped into a cluster. In each cluster, a Cluster Resource Centre (CRC) has been established with the staff from Facilitating NGOs (FNGOs). There are 28 Cluster Resource Centres in the project area to provide support to the community in the implementation of project activities. The Cluster Resource Centres have also been provided with all other infrastructural requirements like office space, computers, telephone and internet connectivity among others.

b. Community Resource Planning: In the initial stages of the programme, a baseline survey had been undertaken based on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Identification of infrastructure needs on priority basis is also one of the

exercises undertaken during the PRA. Micro plans are prepared encompassing livelihood options, environmental and gender concerns.

The project contributes 90% of the costs of the approved Micro Plans, while the community shares 10% of the costs.

c. Fisheries Resource Management:

Workshops at the state and district levels are conducted to identify major issues in fisheries resources. The identified issues are immediately addressed with the help of expert organizations. Artificial reefs are deployed to augment fisheries resources and other activities like mud crab fattening, sea weed cultivation are also undertaken.

ii) Rural Finance and Risk Transfer Instruments :

a. Micro Credit to SHGs: Many activities under the programme are implemented through the Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) which are the apex level organizations of the Self Help groups at

the Panchayat level. Therefore existence of strong and vibrant SHGs is essential for carrying out the activities smoothly. Hence, training to SHG members is given to invigorate themselves and to identify Income Generating Activities. Bank linkages are also facilitated by the Cluster Resource Centres. The District Implementation Office (DIO) in coordination with Cluster Resource Centres conduct sensitization workshops to the bank staff and financial institutions. Exposure visits are arranged for the bankers, to understand the importance of timely credit assistance.

b. Risk Management and Insurance:

During the times of natural disasters and unforeseen circumstances, Vulnerability Reduction Fund is given to the community members in the form of soft loans. This fund is administered by PLFs of which the project contribute 4/5 of the share and the balance 1/5 share is borne by the community. Workshops on insurance help the community to decide

on suitable insurance products. Self Help Groups and the members of fish marketing societies are given training on insurance. An insurance product for fishing assets has also been introduced by the programme.

c. Establishment of Patient Capital Fund and Product Development Fund:

Normally, banks do not fund for the initiatives on development of new and innovative products. Hence the programme, would like to fund these products if they are likely to benefit the community. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NABARD Finance Ltd., (NABFINS) and PTSLP was signed on 19th June 2013. As per the MoU, Rs.300 lakh was released to NABFINS. Balance Rs.200 lakh will be released during 2014-15 subject to satisfactory compliance with regard to financing of micro enterprises as specified in the MoU. For a micro enterprise to be established by an activity group in the project area, 70%

of the project cost should be funded by NABFINS from their own funds with 15% interest rate and 25% of the project cost should be funded with Patient Capital Fund released by PTSLP to NABFINS with an interest rate of 4% and the balance 5% of the project cost would be contributed by the beneficiaries.

iii) Employment Generation and Skill Training

a. Support to SHGs: To strengthen the functioning of SHGs and PLFs, capacity building trainings for the identified weak SHGs are organized. Similarly Training on Governance and Finance Management are conducted for the PLFs. A Software has been developed to be used by the PLFs to capture all details of the member SHGs. The entries which are in Tamil are made by the trained book keepers of the PLFs. The SHGs are also facilitated for availing of timely bank credits. Three PLFs in the project area are functioning as the Business Development Correspondents (BDCs) of NABFINS.

b. Formation of Fish Marketing Societies:

The programme, in partnership with South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) has decided to establish 50 Fish Marketing Societies (FMS). The membership of these societies is open only for the owners of small crafts, Kattumarams and Vallams. South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) is also given grants to finance loan redemption of fisher folk. The Programme Management Unit examines and sanction proposals submitted by South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies for Out Board Motor (OBM) repair centres. Besides provision of ice boxes to fishermen, Fish Landing centres and office buildings for FMS are also established.

c. Vocational training to unemployed youth:

5000 unemployed youth in the project area are planned to be trained in trades which are employable. The duration of these courses range from three months to 12 months. The service

providers are selected based on their experience, competence and infrastructure. 100 % of the training cost would be settled to the institution only if they are able to place at least 70% of the trainees.

d. Micro Enterprise Development: The Programme Management Unit in partnership with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) / organizations that have experience in development of micro enterprises work to develop a cluster of enterprises in the identified sub sector. In Cuddalore District, a cluster of Milk producers has been initiated in coordination with Dhan Foundation and for mango farmers, with the assistance of Covenant Centre for Development (CCD) a cluster of Primary Producer Groups (PPGs) has been formed in Nagapattinam district. Apart from these, 189 Micro enterprises have been established in all the project districts

iv) Community based Sea safety and Disaster Management:

- Awareness creation on aspects of Environmental issues, disaster management and sea safety are also taken care by the programme. In coordination with the Fisheries Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, workshops are conducted on providing communication aids to the fishermen. Moreover, training sessions are organized for fishermen on sea safety measures. Technical experts are engaged in ascertaining the need to educate school children on disaster management. Workshops are conducted to develop resource material and curriculum on environmental education in Primary Schools. Exposure visits are also arranged for school children in this regard. Teachers have been trained on these materials and they were involved in conducting workshops for school children.

11.6. Achievements upto 2013-14

- 28 Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) have been connected with Email and Internet facilities.
- 189 Micro Enterprises established with public contribution at a total cost of Rs.562.58 lakh.
- For further development of micro enterprises, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between PTSLP and NABFINS to manage Patient Capital Fund on 19.06.2013 and the first tranche of Rs.300 lakh was released on the same day. At present, 124 proposals sanctioned by NABFINS
- 5,881 beneficiaries have been taken on Community Exchange visits.
- 633 Community Infrastructure works at an estimated cost of Rs.2,606.32 lakh have been completed under Coastal Area Resource Management Component.

- To improve the fisheries resources, Artificial Reefs have been deployed in Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Villupuram and Nagapattinam Districts. Reefs will be deployed shortly in other Project districts.
- Training for Trainers (ToT) and training to communities on Insurance Products have been given in 109 panchayats. 1,89,298 people have been enrolled under various insurance policies.
- 5,330 SHGs have availed credit to the tune of Rs.10,297.00 lakh,
- 10,157 beneficiaries have availed soft loans worth Rs.447.98 lakh under Vulnerability Reduction Fund.
- 109 PLFs have been restructured.
- Post harvest training has been given to 859 fisherwomen and 55 fisherwomen were taken on exposure visit.
- Income Generation Activities (IGA) training is given to 14,903 rural women in project area.

- 47 Fish Marketing Societies (FMS) have been formed.
- 20 FMS office buildings constructed.
- 1,474 fishermen have been redeemed from debt of Rs.235.22 lakh.
- Two Fishermen Federations have been formed in Thiruvallur and Nagapattinam Districts.
- Two Out Board Motor Workshops and two Boat Yards established in Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari districts have been completed.
- Fish Net Marketing Unit established in Nagapattinam district at the cost of Rs.32.40 lakh.
- 5,422 Ice boxes distributed to fishermen at a cost of Rs.195.19 lakh.

12. BUDGET FOR 2014-15

12. BUDGET FOR 2014-15

A sum of Rs. 12,949.91 crore has been provided in the Budget for 2014-15, out of which, the Revenue Expenditure is Rs. 9783.68 crore, Capital Expenditure is Rs. 3165.97 crore and loans to Government Servants is Rs 0.25 crore.

13. CONCLUSION

13. Conclusion

The Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department under the guidance of **Honourable Chief Minister** is implementing various schemes of Central and State Governments efficiently and expeditiously with the aim of improving the quality of life of the poor people in the rural areas.

Tamil Nadu is the only State in India which implements "THAI", a mega scheme taking "Habitation" as the basic unit to ensure the provision of basic infrastructure facilities in all the habitations. Efforts will be taken to fulfil the basic requirement of all the remaining habitations.

The online monitoring and fund management system through smart phones is a new initiative in the implementation of Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme and other Rural Development Programmes, which will help in the effective monitoring and

implementation of the schemes and will also speed up the progress of the housing schemes.

To increase the green coverage and protection of environment, afforestation activities are being taken up on a large scale under MGNREGS in the lands of small, marginal farmers, SC/ST farmers and Village Panchayat, Panchayat Union and Highways roads. To strengthen the rural infrastructure, buildings for Anganwadis, Village and Block level Resource Centres are also being constructed.

The practice of open defecation is one of the single biggest challenges as it causes widespread damage to human health. Repeated reinforcement of sanitation messages is required to successfully effect behavioural change permanently. This calls for generating a momentum for improvement in the sanitation facilities leading to better health, social and economic development, personal dignity and the protection of environment. The issue of eradicating open defecation will be addressed in coordination and cooperation of various

Government departments through their field functionaries, by fully utilizing the opportunities available through inter-departmental convergence.

All programmes for empowerment of women will be executed more earnestly and all activities under TNSRLM will be implemented properly so as to set a model for other states. The Government will ensure that the people lead the poverty alleviation programme by promotion of strong CBOs at various levels.

The tell-tale effects created by Pudhu Vaazhvu has strengthened the belief that self-help, self-management, self-reliance, self-monitoring will always result in shared prosperity and mutual benefit.

Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihood Programme (PTSLP) has made a tremendous impact on the livelihoods of the coastal community. The income levels of the target households have increased significantly. The awareness level of the people has reached new heights. The Review teams of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),

Rome have Commented upon the performance of the programme as satisfactory and as one of the best IFAD programmes in the Asia Pacific Region.

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department under the dynamic leadership of Honourable Chief Minister will continue to work with total commitment to fulfil the basic requirements and ensure development of all sections of the people in the rural areas of our State.

S.P. VELUMANI
Minister for Municipal Administration,
Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons

