

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT
POLICY NOTE 2012-2013**

1. INTRODUCTION

“In the true democracy of India, the unit is the Village. True democracy has to be worked from below by the people of every village. Village unit as conceived by me is as strong as the strongest. Such a unit can give a good account of itself if it is well organized on a basis of self-sufficiency. If any one can produce one ideal village, he will have provided a pattern not only to the whole country, but perhaps for the whole world”

Mahatma Gandhi

The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to the Socio-Economic development of the people living in rural areas. As per the 2011 Census, in Tamil Nadu about 51.55 % of the people, numbering 3.72 crores are living in rural areas. Since majority of the State population live in rural areas, and Tamil Nadu being a welfare state, more thrust is given to the development of rural areas, directly impacting its economic growth, deliverance of social justice and improvement in standard of living of the people, focusing on poverty alleviation, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities as its stated objectives and goals. These goals will be achieved through effective implementation of various well conceived development programmes with the active participation of Panchayat Raj Institutions.

To improve the quality of life of the people living in rural areas, **as mandated by our Honourable Chief Minister**, for the **first time in the Country**, this Government has introduced a flagship programme called ‘THAI’ (Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement)

scheme, wherein 'Habitation' is taken as the basic unit for allocation of funds and implementation of the programmes. This is a major shift in the policy making where development planning, financing and implementation have been further decentralised from the "Village Panchayat" level to "Habitation" level. The Habitation wise survey conducted by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department became an eye opener in identification of availability and requirement of basic amenities. The survey results reveal that the development schemes and its resources are not distributed evenly among the Habitations and indicate imbalances in the provision of basic amenities, connectivity and other infrastructure facilities in the Habitations. 'THAI' scheme ensures provision of necessary basic infrastructure facilities in all the habitations and the facilities available in urban and semi-urban areas are also being made available in all the rural habitations of Tamil Nadu.

Introduction of "Chief Minister's Solar powered Green House Scheme" by the

Honourable Chief Minister is another mile stone in the history of development initiatives in addressing the felt need of shelter requirements in rural areas. Nowhere in the country such a free housing scheme is implemented for the rural poor. The scheme provides for the construction of a house with an area of 300 sq.ft and solar powered lighting at a cost of Rs.1.80 lakhs.

This Government have given a new thrust to the Sanitation front towards declaring Tamil Nadu as an 'Open defecation free State', by strengthening institutional arrangements for implementation, ensuring availability of funds, provision of infrastructure and also through sustained Information Education Communication (IEC) campaigns. All the Integrated Women Sanitary Complexes in rural areas have been renovated and continuous usage and maintenance have been ensured through the Habitation level user groups. This Government has reintroduced the 'Clean Village Campaign' for promotion of clean environment and sanitation in rural areas, which include effective disposal of solid and

liquid wastes, ban on use of plastics with due emphasis on water conservation and rain water harvesting structures.

With due concern on mitigating the negative effects of plastics on the environment, this Government has encouraged the usage of plastics in the laying of BT roads. Accordingly, roads to the length of 100 kms have been taken up during the year 2011-12, which will be continued during 2012-13 also. This measure will enable reduction of environmental hazards apart from improving the quality of roads.

This Government have taken various measures for effective implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) viz., i) execution of more than one work in each Village Panchayat at any point of time, ii) judicious selection of water harvesting structures using satellite based maps, iii) IEC activities to generate awareness among the workers to get their entitled wages, iv) payment of wages through banks, v)

establishing better workers interface by appointing 'Worksite facilitators' and vi) continuous on-line monitoring to ensure habitation wise participation of workers. Efforts have been taken for the provision of irrigation facilities, plantation, horticulture and other land development activities in the lands owned by households of SC/ST, Small and Marginal Farmers, beneficiaries of land reforms, Indira Awaas Yojana and BPL families. Based on the sustained efforts of this Government, an amount of Rs.3,000 crores has been disbursed as wages to the MGNREGS workers within a span of ten months by generating 33 crore mandays. This is the highest expenditure incurred so far since inception of the scheme in Tamil Nadu.

As per the directions of the Honourable Chief Minister, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department played a major role in the relief and rehabilitation measures in the 'Thane' cyclone affected areas. As an immediate relief measure, this department has ensured 100% water supply in 5,403 habitations of the 3 affected districts, mobilized

gen-sets to pump water to the Overhead Tanks and Ground Level Reservoirs as well as supply of water through tanker lorries to the affected areas. 57,014 Street lights were restored and made functional on a war-footing by mobilizing workers from various districts.

The fourth ordinary elections to the Rural Local Bodies were successfully conducted during October 2011 and 1,19,399 representatives have been elected to various offices and seats. The effective functioning of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) is essential for ensuring holistic development of the villages, for which this department would strive by enhancing the functional capabilities of elected representatives through intensive, continuous and focused training programmes.

Under women empowerment initiatives, Tamil Nadu stands as a model for other States. Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) Ltd., formed in 1983, has been nurturing the SHG movement launched through the IFAD project with the prime objective of socio-economic empowerment of

women. This Government has taken many innovative measures to motivate and encourage women through various capacity building measures and credit linkage through banks for enhancing their standard of living. The SHG women have emerged as the backbone for implementing many schemes which require community participation. The SHG movement has brought about a revolutionary change in the lives of the poor rural women who have become literate, skilled and income generators; thus gaining status and recognition in the society.

Tamil Nadu Government with the assistance of World Bank has been implementing the "Pudhu Vaazhvu" Project in 16 districts since 2005. During 2011-12, this has been extended to 10 new project districts with an outlay of Rs. 950 crores. The main thrust of the project is building people's institutions and enhancing the capacities of the poorest of the poor through the Community Driven Development approach with specific focus on Vulnerable and differently-abled. Through strong and effective convergence

mechanism from the village Panchayat level to the district level the project will harness and channelise the various benefits and entitlements from government schemes by coordinating with all line departments and organizations.

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is responsible for the implementation of various rural development and welfare schemes and facilitates Panchayat Raj Institutions to discharge their duties and functions effectively so as to achieve the objectives of Local Self Governance. This Government is committed to provide all the basic amenities in the rural areas at the habitation level, promote sanitation, reduce poverty, conserve the natural resources, minimize the urban-rural divide and ensure improvement in the quality of life of the rural people of Tamil Nadu.

2. PANCHAYAT RAJ

The history of the local self-governance in Tamil Nadu can be traced back to the stone edicts and carvings in Sri Vaikunda Perumal

Temple of Uthiramerur in Kancheepuram district, which bear evidence to the well established local self-governance during the period of Chola Empire. It is inscribed on the walls of the temple in granite slabs that the village had a perfect electoral system and a written constitution prescribing the mode of election. This inscription can be dated around 920 AD in the reign of Parantaka Chola, which demonstrates the perfect electoral system that existed in ancient Tamil Nadu. It was a system of democracy in monarchy where the members of the Village Council were elected through a process of secret ballot called 'Kuda Olai Murai' and these Councils functioned as self-contained economic and administrative entities. This system of secret ballot is the forerunner for today's electoral system. A huge mud pot (Kudam) was placed at an important location of the village, which served as a ballot box. The voters had to write the name of the desired candidate on the palm leaf (Panai olai) and drop it in the pot. At the end of the process, the leaves were taken out of the pot and counted candidate-wise and whoever got the highest number of votes was selected as

the member of the Village Council. It is also interesting to note that eligibility criteria and norms for disqualification had been prescribed for those who contested for the Village Council.

With the advent of the British rule, the system of local self-governance slowly disintegrated and the industrialization that followed resulted in massive unemployment. This eventually shattered the basic structure of the local self-governance. However, the British presented a modified concept of local self-governance to suit the British colonial rule.

The District Board Fund was conceptualized in 1854, and the Madras Local Fund Act 1871 was later enacted by Governor Mayo. Local Fund Boards were set up in their respective areas and were devolved with certain functions. Madras Local Board Act, 1884 was the outcome of the Lord Ripon's Local Self Government Resolution of 1882, which ushered in the 3 tier system of Local Boards namely District Boards, Taluk Boards and Union of Villages. In 1920, the Government enacted two legislations, 1) The

Madras Local Boards Act (replacing 1884 Act) and 2) Village Panchayat Act. In 1930, Madras Village Panchayat Act was repealed and Village Panchayats came under the purview of Madras Local Boards Act 1920 by an amendment to the Act in 1930. Though local self-governance was accentuated in all the above proclamations, the Government continued to exercise absolute control over the Local Bodies through Inspector of Municipalities and Local Boards.

In the post-independence era, the Government enacted Madras Village Panchayat Act 1950 for devolving greater powers to Panchayats. Article 40 in Part-IV of the Constitution of India provide for the organization and endowment of powers to the Panchayats. The District Boards looked after Health and Education and the Panchayats undertook various activities to fulfill the basic needs of the people. A model Panchayat Union comprising some Village Panchayats was set up in Madurai in 1951. The Government of India launched Community Development and National Extension Service Scheme in 1952 for

Area Development through "Development Blocks".

The Balwantraji Mehta Committee appointed by Government of India, submitted its report in January 1957 and recommended the establishment of the democratic decentralization, which finally came to be known as Panchayat Raj. Some of the main recommendations of the Committee were:

- i) Establishment of 3 tier Panchayat Raj System which should be organically linked through a device of indirect elections.
- ii) Village Panchayats should be constituted by the directly elected representatives whereas the Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad should be constituted with the indirectly elected members.
- iii) All the Planning and Development activities should be entrusted to the three tier Local Bodies.
- iv) Panchayat Samiti should be the executive body, whereas the Zilla Parishad should

play advisory role, coordinating and supervising the functions.

- v) District Collector should be the Chairman of Zilla Parishad.
- vi) There should be a genuine transfer of powers and responsibilities to these democratic bodies.
- vii) Sufficient resources should be devolved to these bodies to enable them to discharge their functions.
- viii) A system should be evolved to effect further devolution of powers and functions, in future.

The Government of Madras was not in total agreement with the recommendations of Balwantraji Mehta Committee and enacted Madras Panchayats Act, 1958 and Madras District Development Council Act, 1958. The major features of the enactments were:

- i) Creation of Panchayat Unions co-terminus with Development Blocks
- ii) Abolition of District Boards

- iii) Creation of District Development Council to play an advisory role
- iv) Entrustment of development and social welfare functions to Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. However, the enactments deleted certain powers of Village Panchayats like judicial powers.

Though Balwantrai Mehta Committee had recommended for setting up of 3 tier Panchayats with Zilla Parishad at District level, the Madras Government set up District Development Council at District level, which ultimately led to 2 tier system with Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union. The District Boards were abolished and the Panchayat Unions were the successor body to the District Boards. The District Collectors chaired the District Development Councils (DDC) with representatives from rural and urban local bodies, MLAs, MPs and others as members and thus, the Panchayat Unions started playing a pivotal role in the developmental process.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act was passed and it 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 Committee. The State Governments were required to carry out amendments in their respective Panchayat Acts and enact new legislations.

The 73rd amendment added a new dimension to the existence of local self-governance and provided scope for Grama Sabha in villages, constitution of three tier system of Panchayats, direct elections of members to the Panchayats, reservation of seats to SCs/STs in proportion to their population, reservation of 1/3rd seats for women, reservation of seats to the Chairpersons (i.e. Chairman, President) on rotation basis, fixing of 5 year tenure for Panchayats, holding of elections within a period of six months in the event of supersession of

any Panchayat, devolution of powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats by the State Legislature, setting up of the State Finance Commission once in 5 years to review and recommend the fiscal status of Panchayats, establishment of State Election Commission, etc.

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:

- Three Tier System came into existence in Tamil Nadu
- "Panchayat" was a generic term for all the three tier and the Town Panchayats were brought under Nagarpalika Act
- Members of three tier of Rural Local Bodies and Village Panchayat Presidents were directly elected whereas the Chairpersons of Panchayat Union Councils and District Panchayats were elected from among the elected ward members.

- All the three tier of Panchayats are independent of each other and the Village Panchayat Presidents are not members in the Panchayat Union Council.
- Reservation of seats and offices for SCs/STs in proportion to their population has been made and 1/3rd of the total number of seats and offices is reserved for women.
- The rotation of offices in all three tiers will be once in 10 years.
- Election shall be conducted within 6 months from the date of occurrence of any vacancy and the tenure is fixed as 5 years for all the members and Chairpersons.
- Tamil Nadu State Election Commission was constituted.
- State Finance Commission is being constituted quinquennially.
- District Planning Committee has been constituted to consolidate the Development Plans of Panchayats and Municipalities in the districts.

2.1 Grama Sabha

All the registered voters of a Village Panchayat constitute Grama Sabha, which is provided with specific powers and functions.

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. However, the Government of Tamil Nadu has made it mandatory to convene Grama Sabha, a minimum number of 4 times i.e. on 26th January, 1st May, 15th August and 2nd October of every calendar year. Besides, the Grama Sabha can be convened as and when the necessity arises.

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.

2.2 State Election Commission

Setting up of State Election Commission is mandated by 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India and Section 239 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (The Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994). 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 and 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. While the conditions of service and the tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be 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.

2.3 Elections, 2011

After enactment of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act in April, 1994, the first ordinary elections were held to all the Rural and Urban Local Bodies in October 1996. The second

ordinary elections to the Local Bodies were conducted during 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. There was high participation of voters in the rural areas with a record turnout of 81.81%. The elections to the posts of ward members of Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats and for Presidents of Village Panchayats were direct and held in two phases on 17.10.2011 and 19.10.2011. The elections to the posts of Vice Presidents of Village Panchayats, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats were indirect and that was held on 29.10.2011. While the elections to the seats (i.e. ward members) and offices (i.e. heads) of District Panchayats and Panchayat Unions were held on party basis, the elections to the seats and offices of Village Panchayats were held on non-party basis.

2.4 Delimitation of Rural Local Bodies

Conversion of Multi Member Wards into Single Member Wards

In Tamil Nadu, where as Panchayat Unions and the District Panchayats have single member wards, the Village Panchayats had both single member and multi-member wards and the elections were held on this basis till October, 2006.

The system of having Multi Member Wards in the Village Panchayats posed difficulties in the reservation of seats to SC/ST and Women members for the Village Panchayat Wards. The rural voters also felt that the ballot paper was confusing and difficulties were encountered by the staff members at the time of counting of votes. Since there is no clear demarcation of territory in a multi member ward, there was no sense of owning responsibility among the members of a particular ward. Hence, Section 12 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 was amended vide the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Third Amendment) Act of 2009 (Tamil Nadu Act 20 of 2009). But, the corresponding rule amendment was not

issued. Because of this, the conversion of multi-member wards into single member wards were not given effect to.

Hence, necessary amendment has been made in September, 2011 in Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fixation of strength of members and division of Wards) Rules, 1995, so as to bring single member ward system in Village Panchayats – vide G.O. (Ms.) No.63, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.II) Department, dated: 14th September, 2011.

Originally as per 1991 Census, there were 40,879 multi member wards with 97,458 ward members in the Village Panchayats. Hence, in order to streamline the electoral process and demarcate the Village Panchayat Wards with clear boundaries, it was proposed to convert the multi member wards into single member wards. After the exercise for conversion of multi member wards into single member wards as per 2001 Census, the number of Village Panchayat wards has gone up to 99,333 and equal would be the number of ward members.

2.5 Delimitation of Panchayat Union Wards

Consequent to the conversion of multi member wards into single member wards and merger of 96 Village Panchayats with the urban local bodies, the ward boundaries of certain Panchayat Unions required re-organisation, which has been completed. Elections have been held to these Panchayat Union Wards as per the revised delimitation.

2.6 Delimitation of District Panchayat Wards

The formation of two new Districts namely Tiruppur and Ariyalur Districts necessitated the re-organisation of District Panchayat Wards in Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Perambalur and Ariyalur and the merger of 96 Village Panchayats with the urban Local Bodies warranted the re-organisation of some of the District Panchayat Wards in the State. This delimitation exercise has been completed and the ordinary elections in October, 2011 were held as per the revised delimitation.

2.7 Conduct of ordinary Elections for Rural Local Bodies in 2011

The ordinary elections to the Rural Local Bodies were successfully conducted during October 2011 for the election to the Ward Members of Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats and for the election of Village Panchayat Presidents. The Village Panchayat Ward Member election was conducted with the Single Member Ward system for the first time in the State.

The following table details the number of seats and offices in the three tiers of Panchayats for which elections were held during October, 2011.

Details of Number of Seats & Offices:

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

2.8 Formation of two new Village Panchayats

Two new Village Panchayats namely Perumathur and Indira Nagar have been notified by the District Collector, Cuddalore in Kurinjipadi Panchayat Union, became functional after the Local Body Elections held in October 2011.

2.9 Formation of two New District Panchayats

Consequent to the formation of two new districts namely Tiruppur and Ariyalur, two new District Panchayats have been constituted for these two Districts – vide G.O. (Ms.) No.26, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.II) Department, dated: 25.02.2011 and G.O. (Ms.) No.49, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.II) Department, dated: 25.08.2011 respectively. The two new District Panchayats have become functional after the Local Body Elections held in October, 2011.

2.10 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 243D 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.

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

Sl No	Category of Reservation	Total no. of offices/ seats	Reserved for Women		Reserved for SCs (General & Women)		Reserved for STs (General & Women)	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	District Panchayat Chair persons	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 %

2.11 Conduct of Elections for the offices of Village Panchayat Presidents.

Article 243D of the Constitution relates to reservation and rotation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women in Rural Local Bodies. The periodicity of rotation is fixed under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Reservation of seats and Rotation of Reserved seats) Rules, 1995. Accordingly, the rotation in reservation was given effect in the conduct of ordinary elections in the year 2006, in respect of all the Village Panchayats except for the offices of the Presidents of Pappapatti, Keeripatti and Nattarmangalam in Madurai District and Kottakachiendal in Virudhunagar District reserved for Scheduled Caste since election could not be conducted to these Village Panchayats earlier.

Ordinary elections were conducted to the offices of the above Village Panchayat Presidents in the year 2006 without any rotation in the existing reservations. This Government had taken decision to conduct

ordinary elections for the offices of above Village Panchayat Presidents in the year 2011 also without rotation in the existing reservation. Accordingly, ordinary elections were conducted in these Village Panchayats without any law and order problems with the existing reservations and the elected representatives have assumed offices.

2.12 De-reservation of the offices of Presidents of Village Panchayats

In the year 2006, Ordinary elections were conducted to the rural Local Bodies after the rotation in the reservation of seats and offices. But, election to the offices of Village Panchayat Presidents in 8 Village Panchayats reserved for SC/STs could not be conducted due to non-availability of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in these Village Panchayats.

Name of District	Name of Block	Name of Panchayat	Reservation as per 2001 census
Kancheepuram	Uthiramerur	PulipaKkam	ST (G)
Kancheepuram	Chithamur	Pudur	SC(G)
Tiruvallur	Pallipattu	Ramapuram	ST(G)
Cuddalore	Panrutti	Kolapakkam	SC(W)
Villupuram	Vallam	Kadugapattu	SC(W)
Vellore	Thimiri	Cheyathuvannam	ST(G)
Tiruvannamalai	Thandram Pattu	Pernampattu	ST(G)
Ariyalur	T.Palur	Naduvalur	SC(G)

Eventhough, the Tamilnadu State Election Commission conducted Casual elections to Local Bodies on the following dates, no body had filed nominations and hence elections were not held in these Village Panchayats.

1. September, 2007
2. February, 2008
3. September, 2008
4. January, 2011.

2001 census data had enlisted the availability of SC/ST population in respect of

these Village Panchayats and on this basis, the reservations were made for the SC/ST categories. When a detailed field verification was conducted by the District Collectors, it was found that no persons belonging to SC/ST category were available in the above 8 Village Panchayats. Considering the factual reports of the District Collectors, the Government issued orders de-reserving the reservations already made for the Offices of Village Panchayat Presidents for SC/ST category in the above 8 Village Panchayats as per the notification in G.O.(Ms) No.60, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR-1) Department, dated: 09.09.2011.

Consequent upon de-reservation, Ordinary elections were successfully conducted to the offices of Village Panchayat President in the above Village Panchayats during October, 2011 and the elected representatives have assumed offices thereby ensuring a democratically elected local body after 5 years. It was also ensured that the overall proportion of reservation entitled to SC/ST was not affected due to the above de-reservation.

2.13 Re-organisation of Panchayat Boundaries as per 2011 Census Population

The boundaries of Village Panchayats and the strength of ward members were fixed on the basis of 2001 population census. The boundaries and the strength of the ward members of Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats were fixed on the basis of 1991 census population only. Ordinary elections to the Rural Local Bodies were conducted in October 2011 taking into account the existing ward boundaries and the strength of the ward members as mentioned above. As per the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, the boundaries and the strength of three tier Panchayats need to be re-organised on the basis of preceding census population. Accordingly, this Government proposes to delimit and re-organise the wards of the 3 tier Panchayats on the basis of the 2011 census and to conduct the ordinary elections to the Rural Local Bodies in the year 2016 on the above grounds.

2.14 State Finance Commission

Constitution of the State Finance Commission is mandated by 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India and section 198 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994. The first State Finance Commission was constituted in 1994 and the terms of reference were:

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 Fourth State Finance Commission was set up in December, 2009 vide G.O.(Ms).No.549, Finance Department, dated 1.12.2009 to study the financial position of the Village Panchayats, Panchayat Union Councils,

District Panchayats, Town Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations and make recommendations. The Commission submitted its report to the Government in September, 2011 for the award period from 2012 -2017.

The 2011 Provisional census figures reveal that the ratio of the population in rural and urban areas in Tamil Nadu is 52:48 and hence, there is a claim that the existing sharing pattern of the State revenue between the Rural and Urban Local Bodies which is at 58:42, should be altered to the advantage of Urban Local Bodies. However, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has made out the case before the Fourth State Finance Commission on the need to continue the existing sharing pattern due to the vast differences in the living standards of the people between rural and urban areas; failure to improve the living standards of the rural people will result in more migration to the urban areas that will indirectly cast a heavy financial burden on the urban Local Bodies.

For the year 2011-12, the Government has allocated a sum of Rs.3,332.47 crores to Rural Local Bodies as State Finance Commission Grant.

The quantum of increase in State Finance Commission Grants to Rural Local Bodies from 2009-10 to 2011-12 is given in the following Table.

State Finance Commission Grants to Rural Local Bodies.

(Rs. in crores)

Year	SFC Grants	Increase over previous years	
		Amount	% of increase
2009-10	1,926.57	210.13	12%
2010-11	2,814.88	888.31	46%
2011-12	3,332.47	517.59	18%

2.15 District Planning Committee

The District Planning Committee is constituted for every district under section 241 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. District Collector is the Chairman and District Panchayat Chairperson is the Vice Chairman of the Committee. MPs, MLAs, 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.

Consequent to the formation of 2 new Districts namely Ariyalur and Thiruppur and due to the merger of 96 Village Panchayats with the adjoining Municipalities and Corporation, the strength of the members of the District Planning Committee needs revision. The Government will issue orders shortly by refixing the strength of the members of the District Planning Committee in each District.

2.16 Central Finance Commission

The Central Government have ordered to allocate two types of Grants to the Rural Local Bodies in the State based on the recommendations of 13th Finance Commission.

i) General Basic Grant:

The Government of India have allocated a sum of Rs. 2016.30 crores to Rural Local Bodies as 13th Central Finance Commission Basic grant for the 5 year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15. The basic grant of Rs. 287.10 crores was received for the year 2010-11.

A sum of Rs.352.62 crores had been received from the Government of India for the year 2011-12 as 13th Central Finance Commission Basic Grant. The State Government has released Rs.166.50 crores as first installment vide G.O. Ms. No. 43, RD & PR Department, dated 20.7.2011. The balance eligible General Basic Grant of Rs.9.81 crores towards 1st installment for the year 2011-12 was released vide G.O. (Ms.) No.67, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.1) Department, dated 22.09.2011. The 2nd

installment of General Basic Grant for the year 2011-12 to the tune of Rs.176.31 crores was released vide G.O. (Ms.) No.85, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.1) Department, dated 08.11.2011.

The grants are distributed to the Village Panchayats to perform the following functions:

- Operation & maintenance of water supply, street lights and sanitation
- Payment of electricity charges for water supply and street lights.

ii) General Performance Grant:

The Thirteenth Finance Commission has recommended two types of Grants to Local Bodies namely General Basic Grant and General Performance Grant. The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India is releasing the General Basic Grant from the year 2010-11. Government of India has listed out certain conditionalities prescribed by the Thirteenth Finance Commission to be eligible for General Performance Grant.

The High Level Monitoring Committee in the meeting held on 26.9.2011 has decided to

implement the following conditionalities laid down by the Government of India to draw the General Performance Grant:

1. State Government must put in place a supplement to the Budget documents for Local Bodies, separately for Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies.

Implementation of PRIA Soft – Model Accounting System and compilation of 8 data basic formats prescribed by the C &AG.

2. C & AG should be given Technical guidance and services over the audit of all the Local Bodies in the State at every tier / category.

Annual Technical Inspection report of the Director of Local Fund Audit to be placed before State Legislature.

3. State Government must put in place a system of independent Local Body Ombudsman who will look into complaints of corruption and maladministration against District Panchayats.

4. Electronic fund transfer to Local Bodies within 5 days of their receipt from the Central Government / within 10 days due to lack of Core Banking System.
5. State Finance Commission: To prescribe eligibility criteria for the members of the State Finance Commission in accordance with Article 243 (1) (2) of the Constitution.
6. All Local Bodies should be fully empowered to levy property tax.
7. State Government must put in place a State level Property Tax Board which will assist all Municipalities and Municipal Corporations in the State.
8. State Governments must put gradually in place standards for delivery of all essential services provided by Local Bodies.
9. All Municipal Corporations with the population of more than 1 million as per 2001 census must put in place a fire hazard response and mitigations plan for their respective jurisdictions.

The above conditionalities have been complied by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and sent to the Government of India to issue necessary orders for sanction of General Performance Grant for the Panchayat Raj Institutions in Tamil Nadu.

2.17. Village Panchayat

The Village Panchayat is constituted for each Panchayat Village consisting of such number of elected members, with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification of the Inspector of Panchayats. The Government may by notification, classify Village Panchayats into various grades for the purpose of effective administration. The total number of members of the Village Panchayats (exclusive of its President) shall be notified by the Inspector of Panchayats in accordance with such scale as may be prescribed with reference to the population of the Village Panchayats concerned as per the latest published census. 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 number of Village Panchayats in each district is given in the Annexure. 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 supply Committee
4. Works Committee
5. Temporary Committee

According to Section 110 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, it shall be the duty of the Village Panchayats for carrying out the requirements of the Village Panchayats in the following matters:

1. Construction, repair and maintenance of all village roads, (other than those classified by Highways and Panchayat Union roads), all bridges, culverts and cause-ways.
2. Street lights in public places.
3. Construction of drains and disposal of drainage.
4. Cleaning of streets and improvement of sanitary conditions.
5. Provision of public latrine.
6. Burial and burning grounds.
7. Supply of drinking water.
8. Other duties that the Government, may by notification, impose.

Section 111 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, provides for the Village Panchayats to make provisions for carrying out the requirements in respect of plantation, lighting, markets, fairs & festivals, cart stand & cattle sheds, slaughter houses, reading rooms, play grounds, etc., which are deemed to be the discretionary functions of the Village

Panchayats subject to the limits of its resources.

2.17.1 Revenue

The Village Panchayat is the only body, empowered to levy taxes including fees and charges among the three tiers of Panchayat Raj Institutions. The Village Panchayat levies the following taxes:

2.17.1.1 Tax Revenue

1. House tax
2. Profession tax
3. Advertisement tax

2.17.1.2 Non-Tax Revenue

1. Licensing fee for building plan and layout approval
2. Fees and charges on Dangerous & Offensive trades,
3. Market fee,
4. Water charges,
5. Fee on cart stand

6. Social Forestry auctions
7. Fishery rentals
8. 2-C patta fees
9. Income from market and fairs.
10. Fees from ferries
11. Fines and penalties

Avenues for mobilizing more revenue by collection of fees from items such as Mobile towers erected in Panchayat land, Optical Fibre Cables laid along Panchayat roads, land categorization, etc., also are available to Village Panchayats. A Special Committee has been constituted by the Government to suggest ways and means to augment resources of the Panchayats.

2.17.2 Assigned and shared Revenue

The Village Panchayat is entitled to a portion of allocation from the pooled assigned revenues of Surcharge on stamp duty and Entertainment Tax.

2.17.3 Grant

1. Central Finance Commission Grant – As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the entire Central Finance Commission allocation is given to the Village Panchayats for maintenance of drinking water and sanitation.
2. State Finance Commission Grant – 60% of the 58% of the share given to the Rural Local Bodies out of the earmarked 10% of the total State direct revenue, is due to the Village Panchayats, which is released on a monthly basis. A floor amount has been set apart to meet Current Consumption charges towards street lights and drinking water supply which is operated through a separate account. The remaining amount is distributed to the Village Panchayats on the basis of population. 5% out of the above 60% is designated as infrastructure gap filling fund.
3. Development Grants under various Central and State Schemes.

2.18. Constitution of a Special Committee for increasing financial support to Village Panchayats

In Tamil Nadu, there are three tiers of Panchayat Raj Institutions in rural areas namely Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats. Among the three tiers, the Village Panchayat is the basic unit of the Panchayat Raj Institutions. The role and responsibilities of Village Panchayats are clearly prescribed in Sections 110 and 111 of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.

Important such functions are listed as below:

- i) Provision of drinking water supply
- ii) Provision and maintenance of street lights
- iii) Maintenance of sanitation
- iv) Construction, repair and maintenance of all village roads
- v) Maintenance of parks, burial grounds, reading rooms, etc.

- vi) Implementation of Central and State Government Schemes in Village Panchayats.

The basic sources of income to the Village Panchayats are revenue from House Tax, Professional tax, Water charges and Licensing fee for building plan and layout approval. The State Government is releasing funds to the Village Panchayats in the form of State Finance Commission Grant every year as per the recommendations of the State Finance Commission.

Further, the Assigned Revenue are being pooled at State level and distributed to Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats in the ratio of 60:32:8. In the year 2010-11, the assigned revenue was allocated to three tier of Panchayat Raj Institutions and for the priority works in the ratio of 1:2. Whereas for the year 2011-12, 2/3rd of the assigned revenue was released to the Village Panchayats and Panchayat Unions in the ratio of 2:1 only. The balance 1/3rd of the amount was utilized for priority works to be implemented in rural areas.

Since the Village Panchayats have the responsibility of provision of basic amenities and fulfillment of basic needs in rural areas, the financial position of such Village Panchayats is to be strengthened further. The viabilities to increase the resources of the Village Panchayats need special and detailed study. The Government have already announced on the floor of the Assembly, that "increasing the Financial Support to Village Panchayats will be studied through Special Committee."

In this regard, the Government in G.O. (Ms.) No.98, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.1) Department, dated: 02.12.2011, have issued orders for the constitution of a Special Committee to have a detailed study on increasing the financial support to Village Panchayats, under the Chairmanship of Honourable Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development.

The Special Committee consists of 10 Official Members and 11 Non-official Members, which includes 2 experts in Panchayat Raj Accounting procedures.

The Special Committee has planned to review the existing financial position of Village Panchayats and will have a study to improve the financial position and explore the possible new avenues for tapping resources in Village Panchayats. The Committee has also planned to have interaction with the representatives of Panchayat Raj institutions, officials and experts at field level. If necessary, the Committee will visit other States also to study the resource structures of the Village Panchayats.

2.19. Panchayat Union

The Panchayat Union is co-terminus with the development block and the Panchayat union area is divided into territorial wards for every five thousand population. The Panchayat Union ward members are directly elected from territorial blocks and the Panchayat Union chairman is elected indirectly by the ward members.

Number 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 number of Panchayat Unions in each district are given in the Annexure.

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. Preventive and remedial measures for any epidemic.
5. Fairs and festivals classified by the Panchayat Union Council.
6. Classified 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.

2.19.1 Finance

1. The Panchayat Union Council cannot levy taxes.
2. The revenue of a Panchayat Union consists of non-tax revenues, assigned/shared revenues such as a

portion of the pooled assigned revenue, fees & charges, rentals, fines & penalties and Government grants such as State Finance Commission Grant, Grant for Maternity Centre, Grant for Dispensaries, Social Education Grant, Women & Children Welfare Grant, Local Irrigation Grant and Development Grants from Centre and State Schemes.

3. State Finance Commission Grant – 32% of the 58% of the share given to the Rural Local Bodies out of the earmarked 10% of the total State revenue, is due to the Panchayat Unions, which is released on a monthly basis. A floor amount of Rs.30 lakhs has been set apart for uniform and equitable distribution. The remaining amount is distributed to the Panchayat Unions on the basis of population.

2.20 District Panchayat

Section 24 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, provides for the constitution of District Panchayat for each revenue district.

District Panchayat is divided into territorial wards for every 50,000 population approximately. 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:

- Food and Agriculture
- Industries and Labour
- Public Works
- Education
- Health and Welfare including Prohibition

These Committees perform the functions assigned to them specifically by the District Panchayat. The District Panchayat may constitute additional standing committees for such purposes as it deems fit. Each Standing

Committee shall elect its own Chairman from among its members who are elected members of the District Panchayat. The Chairman of the District Panchayat shall be the ex-officio member in all the Standing Committees.

The functions of the District Panchayats are:

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

2.20.1 Finance

The District Panchayat has no taxation powers. The State Finance Commission Grant and Development Grants and in certain cases, income from their own properties like lands and buildings, constitute the chief source of income.

State Finance Commission Grant – 8% of the 58% of the share given to the Rural Local Bodies out of the earmarked 10% of the total State revenue is due to the District Panchayats, which is released on a monthly basis.

2.21. Pooling of Assigned Revenue

The Government of Tamil Nadu had ordered the pooling of assigned revenues due to the Rural Local Bodies from the proceeds of surcharge on stamp duty and entertainment tax at the State Level and apportioning the same to the Rural Local Bodies (except social forestry receipts and income from mines and minerals).

During 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".

For the year 2011-12, this allocation was revised by earmarking **two-third** of the total revenue to be assigned to the Rural Local Bodies and the balance **one-third** allocation to be apportioned to the "Fund for Priority Schemes in Rural areas," for implementing specific development schemes in the rural areas and "Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme (THAI)".

Accordingly, the Government have sanctioned Rs.532.42 Crores in G.O. Ms.No.97, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department dated 1.12.2011, under Pooled Assigned Revenue for the year 2011-12 from the proceeds of Surcharge on Stamp Duty and Entertainment Tax as detailed below:

Surcharge on Stamp Duty	Rs. 528,47,89,051/-
Entertainment Tax	Rs. 3,94,61,464/-
Total	Rs. 532,42,50,515/-

Out of the above amount, the two-third, i.e., Rs.354.95 Crores have been apportioned among the Village Panchayats and Block Panchayats in the ratio of 67 : 33 based on the rural population as per 2001 census as detailed below:

(in Rupees)

Component	Village Panchayats	Block Panchayats	Total
Surcharge on Stamp Duty	236,05,39,109	116,26,53,591	352,31,92,700
Entertainment Tax	1,76,26,121	86,81,522	2,63,07,643
Total	237,81,65,230	117,13,35,113	354,95,00,343

The balance one-third amount Rs. 177,47,50,172/- has been apportioned 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).

2.22. PRIA Soft – Model Accounting System (MAS)

In order to strengthen the accountability frame work of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, the Eleventh Finance Commission had requested the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) to prescribe accounting formats for Local Bodies. Accordingly, the C&AG had devised a new system of Accounting in 2005 to reflect wide range of functions performed by the Panchayats as in the case of Government Accounts. The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India has constituted a Technical Committee on budget and accounting standards for Panchayat Raj Institutions, for further simplifications of PRI accounts and the accounting powers. The Technical Committee has developed a Model Accounting System for the PRIs which is a simplified cash based accounting with a provision for shifting to accrual accounting.

The State Government, in the High Level Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 26.9.2011 have decided to implement the

recommendations of Thirteenth Finance Commission for getting General Performance Grant from Government of India. One of the conditions is implementation of PRIA Soft – Model Accounting System.

The PRIA Soft stands for Panchayat Raj Institutions Accounting Software. The software has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Communication and Informatics Technology, Government of India in consultation with the Ministry of Panchayat Raj (MoPR) to develop a Centralised Accounting Software intended for use by all the three tiers of Pachayat Raj – District Panchayat, Panchayat Union and Village Panchayat. It also facilitates the adoption of revised model accounting formats as prescribed by the C&AG.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have decided to implement PRIA Soft in all the Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats from the year 2012-13. The implementation will be taken up in all Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats

simultaneously and in Village Panchayats in a phased manner.

In order to implement the PRIA Soft in Village Panchayats, computers with internet connectivity are very much essential. Most of the computers installed in the Village Panchayats during the year 2004-05 have become obsolete and dysfunctional. Considering the importance of the implementation of the PRIA Soft – Model Accounting System in all Village Panchayats, the Government have decided to purchase new computers, printers, UPS and Broad Band connectivity to 12,524 Village Panchayats. The Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) will purchase computers through tender procedure for which amount will be released to ELCOT by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. The Panchayat Secretaries working in the Village Panchayats will be utilized for the operation of computers.

Training manuals are being prepared both in Tamil and English. Training will be given to the staff in Village Panchayats,

Panchayat Unions and District Panchayats through the Ministry of Panchayat Raj and National Informatics Centre, New Delhi. The training will be given in the month of April 2012.

3. STATE SCHEMES

3.1. Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement (THAI) Scheme

The Government's endeavour to improve the Quality of Life in rural areas, by providing necessary inputs like protected drinking water, sanitation, health facilities, quality education, all weather roads, etc., is continuous, sustained and persistent. Hence, in order to ensure an 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. But, all these strategies were evolved with "Village Panchayat" as the basic structural and functional unit of planning.

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. Though, there are 12,524 Village Panchayats in the State, there are 79,394 habitations and only a micro level planning and financing at habitation level shall pave the way for reducing the rural-urban divide. Further, the rate of increase in the percentage of urbanization in Tamil Nadu over the past decade indicates a heavy migration of people to the urban and semi-urban areas and this can be checked only when the amenities available in rural areas are on par with urban and semi-urban areas.

There are about 7 habitations on an average for 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. Therefore, allocation of equal amount to all the Village

Panchayats, which have varied number of habitations, has lead to disparity in development, disproportionate distribution of assets and uneven progress.

This Government has introduced the flagship programme called Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement (THAI) Scheme 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.*

Equitable distribution of resources to all the habitations in a proportionate manner alone shall mark 'just & impartial development' of the habitations and allay the disparities in development. The introduction of THAI Scheme shall be a paradigm shift in the approach towards the development process of rural areas.

There are 12,524 Village Panchayats in the State spread across the 31 Districts

(except Chennai). As can be seen from the following table, the population of Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu varies widely with some Village Panchayats having population even below 500 while some others have population exceeding 10,000.

Classification of Village Panchayats on the basis of Population (2001 census)

SI.No.	Population	No.of Village Panchayats
1	500 and below	66
2	501-1,000	1,175
3	1,001-3,000	7,228
4	3,001-5,000	2,554
5	5,001-10,000	1,354
6	Above 10,000	147
Total		12,524

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

Classification of Village Panchayats on the basis of number of habitations

SI.No.	Habitation range	No.of Village Panchayats
1	Below 5	6,241
2	5-15	5,434
3	16-25	637
4	Above 25	212
Total		12,524

Fund allocation

There is a positive correlation between the population of a Village Panchayat and the number of habitations within it. The following table also exhibits the same facts.

Fund requirements for THAI Scheme

Sl. No	Habitation Range	No. of Village Panchayats	Total Population	Average Population per Panchayat	Allocation per Panchayat (Rs. in lakhs)			Total Requirement (Rs. in crores)
					Minimum basic grant	Additional Funds	Total Funds	
1	Below 5	6241	12534047	2008	20	0	20	1248.20
2	5-15	5434	17392688	3201	20	10	30	1630.20
3	16-25	637	3553429	5578	20	20	40	254.80
4	Above 25	212	1864689	8796	20	30	50	106.00
Total		12524	35344853	19583	-	-	-	3239.20
Fund for survey, IEC, Preparatory activities and awards								160.80
Grand Total								3400.00

The requirement of a Village Panchayat will be more if it has more number of habitations. Taking this concept into consideration, the Village Panchayats have been grouped into 4 categories based on the number of habitations for the purpose of

allocation of funds. Thus, Village panchayats with more number of habitations and having a larger population shall receive more funds. The above table clearly depicts the fund requirement for all the 12,524 Village Panchayats. Thus the habitations in all the Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu would be covered at a total cost of Rs.3,400 crores under the THAI scheme. In 2011-12 the scheme has been implemented with an annual allocation of Rs.680 crores.

Scheme Components

Works under THAI Scheme are categorised into three as tabulated below.

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 Floor	
5.	Pathway to Burial Grounds	Play Ground	

Minimum Basic Requirements

3.1.1 Water supply

Drinking water supply works like provision of power pump, extension of pipeline, augmentation of existing source shall be taken up, depending upon the requirement.

3.1.2 Street lights

New streetlights will be provided in the new habitations, extension areas, Adi-dravidar & Tribal habitations and IAY housing colonies, based on the actual needs. Additional street lights, including Solar powered lights, will be provided in the areas where the existing coverage is felt inadequate.

3.1.3. Cement Concrete Roads

Pavements with residential units on sides, 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.

3.1.4 Link Roads

Link roads will cover bus-plying roads, upgradation of WBM roads to BT roads connecting two or more habitations in the same Panchayat and upgradation of earthen/gravel roads.

3.1.5. Cremation / Burial grounds

Each burial ground / cremation ground will be provided with approach road, compound wall, cremation shed, water facility and lights.

3.1.6. 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 will be given to provide approach road or pathway.

The additional requirements and other permitted works will be taken up based on the need and necessity. Apart from THAI, the scheme will be implemented by dovetailing funds, from various schemes of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj department and schemes of other Departments.

3.1.7. Scheme Implementation

The scheme has been programmed to be implemented in V phases from 2011-12 to 2015-16. During 2011-12 a total of 25,335 habitations in 2,020 Village Panchayats have been selected for implementation with an annual allocation of Rs. 680 crores.

During 2012-13 this programme will be implemented in 18,581 habitations of 2,250 Village Panchayats.

The remaining habitations will be covered as described below:

Sl. No	Year	No. of Village Panchayats	No. of Habitations
1	2013-14	2,500	15,115
2	2014-15	2,740	12,093
3	2015-16	3,014	8,270

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

3.1.8. Scheme Implementation during 2011-12.

To ascertain the availability of basic needs and to assess further requirement of basic infrastructure in these habitations a detailed survey was conducted during November and December, 2011. 25,335 habitations located in 2,020 Village Panchayats were taken up for implementation during 2011-12 and an online database has been created (www.tnrd.gov.in).

This is a unique detailed survey 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.

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 Ooranies
 8. Playgrounds
 9. Bus stands.
 10. Shandies.
 11. Details of Self Help groups
 12. (a) Village Panchayat roads
 - (b) Panchayat Union roads.

Based on the detailed survey for the year 2011-12 conducted in 25,335 habitations of 2,020 Village Panchayats, the following actions were taken to fulfill all the basic requirements and additional requirements of these habitations.

- The total requirement of works have been arrived and classified as minimum basic requirements, additional essential requirements and other requirements
- Out of the total requirements, the works taken up under THAI Scheme are

Sl. No	Particulars	No	Amount (Rs.in lakhs)
i)	Minimum basic requirements	66,954	62,891.67
ii)	Additional essential requirements	303	908.93
iii)	Other requirements	975	1,544.47
	Total	68,232	65,345.07

Apart from THAI scheme, nearly 3,223 works to the tune of Rs.31.93 crores has

been dovetailed by utilizing funds of various Rural Development schemes like MLACDS, MPLADP, 13th Finance Commission Grant etc. Efforts are being made to fulfill all the essential needs within the year 2012-13 by dovetailing funds from other schemes.

3.1.9. Scheme Implementation during 2012-13

- THAI Scheme will be implemented in 18,581 habitations of 2,250 Village Panchayats with an allocation of Rs.750 crores.
- Detailed Survey is being conducted in these habitations based on which the actual requirement will be arrived and works will be taken up under THAI Scheme during 2012-13.
- To fulfill all the requirements, dovetailing of funds from other schemes of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj department and other Departments will be done.

Detailed survey to assess all the requirements in the habitations in which the scheme is to be implemented in the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 will also be completed by the 2nd quarter of this year. This will facilitate dovetailing of funds by RD & PR Department and other Departments well in advance.

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

In the Governor's address on 03.06.2011 in the Legislative Assembly, it was announced that "This Government will launch a 'Solar Powered Green House Scheme' for the benefit of the poor in the rural areas and construct houses measuring about 300 square feet at an unit cost of Rs.1.80 lakhs by meeting the entire cost by the State Government".

Accordingly, this Government had ordered for construction of 60,000 Solar Powered Green Houses of 300 square feet each, every year for the next five years commencing from 2011-12 at an unit cost of Rs.1.80 lakhs per house. The

scheme is named as “Chief Minister’s Solar Powered Green House Scheme (CMSPGHS).”

Construction of houses under “Chief Minister’s Solar Powered Green House Scheme” ordered by the Honourable Chief Minister is another milestone in the history of development initiatives in addressing the shelter needs in rural areas. Nowhere in the country such a free housing scheme for the construction of houses with an area of 300 sq.ft with solar powered lighting is implemented.

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 an unit cost of Rs.1.80 lakhs fully funded by the State Government.
- Each house consists of a living room, bed room, kitchen, toilet and verandah apart from Rain Water Harvesting provision.

- 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 unit cost is Rs.1.80 lakhs per house @Rs.1.50 lakh for construction and Rs.30,000/- for Solar Powered Lights.
- The RD & PR 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 insitu (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. People only with pattas for their sites are eligible under this scheme.
- The supply, installation and commissioning of solar panels and lights are undertaken directly by TEDA by

following established procedures in co-ordination with the Project Directors of District Rural Development Agencies.

3.2.2. Type design and unit cost

- Each house shall be constructed with a maximum plinth area of 300 sq.ft at an unit cost of Rs.1.80 lakhs. The houses will be built with a living room, bed room, kitchen and a toilet. Wherever possible, the toilet shall be constructed by dovetailing funds from the Total Sanitation Campaign. Rain Water Harvesting Structure shall be provided in all the houses. The Solar Powered lighting system shall be installed by TEDA in co-ordination with the District officials.
- An exclusive type design for this scheme has been developed and the construction of houses should not exceed the permissible limit of 300 sq.ft. To ensure uniformity in the design, no change of type design is permitted.

- However, changes in type design, such as shifting of kitchen room or bedroom to another direction etc. shall be permitted without altering the total plinth area of 300 sq.ft.
- The logo for this scheme printed on ceramic tiles shall be affixed visibly on all the houses as shown in the design.
- The name of the scheme, beneficiary's name and year of construction shall be painted prominently on each completed house.

3.2.3. Installation of Solar Powered Home Lighting System:

The following modalities shall be followed in the installation, operation and maintenance of solar powered lights:-

- Each house shall have 5 CFL lights through Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) System.
- The internal wiring will be done as part of the civil construction. TEDA will do up

to the change over including the installation of the change over switch.

- There shall be a 2 year warranty period and 1/2/3 year Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) period for the systems supplied based on the rates quoted. The suppliers should set up District level/ Block level Service Centers. A District level Helpline shall also be installed by the supplier/manufacturer.
- The amount of Rs.30,000/- per house for SPV Home lighting system will be drawn by the Commissioner of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj and deposited with TEDA. The subsidy amount eligible for the solar lighting system shall be claimed by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), GOI and remitted to Government of Tamil Nadu account. TEDA will facilitate claim of the subsidy from MNRE.
- Any savings and interest accrued by TEDA while implementing the scheme

shall be remitted to the Government of Tamil Nadu account.

- Tenders shall be floated by TEDA as per Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998.
- TEDA shall bring out Brochures/Hand outs and other training materials on the usage and maintenance of the SPV equipments. A Hand out on Dos and Don'ts should also be prepared by TEDA in the local language and distributed to the beneficiaries.
- Training Modules shall be prepared by TEDA to train the Panchayat Presidents, Panchayat Secretaries, select SHG Members and other local functionaries deemed fit, so that they can serve as effective interface between the beneficiaries and suppliers.

3.2.4. Execution of Works:

The erection and commissioning agencies shall be responsible for two years warranty with additional 1/2/3 years comprehensive maintenance contract. TEDA

will station one AEE/AE and one Junior Assistant cum Computer Operator at each DRDA who will liaise with the Project Director, DRDA for day to day coordination and supervision. The PD, DRDA shall provide TEDA a room in DRDA for housing TEDA unit.

3.2.5. Quality Control & Inspection

TEDA will engage Project Management Consultants(PMC) and a third party inspection agency, whose responsibility is to ensure that all the materials used and the workmanship practiced conform to the prescribed specifications. The inspection will cover quality checks of major materials at pre-shipment stage at the vendor's outlet.

The PMC will ensure that 100% of the lights are installed after inspection. Any defect in the SPV Home Lighting System will be brought to the notice of TEDA by the beneficiary/ Panchayat/ Block/ District Administration for immediate rectification.

In case the quality check reveals that the work is not satisfactory, the implementing

agency (TEDA) shall ensure replacement of the material or rectification of the defective workmanship, as the case may be, within the stipulated time. All works rated unsatisfactory shall be re-inspected after the rectification report is received from the contractor. Funds will be released to the commissioning agencies only after receiving satisfactory inspection reports. TEDA will designate an appropriate senior officer as incharge of the Monitoring system.

3.2.6. Maintenance of the System

As part of the tender, the commissioning agencies shall be responsible to train the beneficiaries as well as 4 SHG members in each Panchayat to do regular maintenance.

3.2.7. State Empowered Committee

The State Empowered Committee constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu with the following members will sanction the projects, including revised costs estimates, monitor and review the

implementation of the scheme in addition to issuing necessary guidelines from time to time for effective implementation of the scheme. This committee will also approve the technical specifications and the tender documents, and will recommend the final bid price to the appropriate authority for acceptance.

CMD, TEDA- Member, Secretary

Principal Secretary, Energy Department

Principal Secretary, RD&PR Department

Principal Secretary, Finance Department

Commissioner, Directorate of RD&PR

Chairman, TANTRANSCO

Dr. Giridhar, CWET

Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala, Chairman RTBI,
IIT Madras

3.2.8. Funds release and Subsidy Claim

The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj will draw the funds and release the same to TEDA. Funds to the companies shall be released based on the

progress of installation. Final payment should be made only after the satisfactory completion of the work duly getting a certificate relating to completion from the competent authority of TEDA. TEDA will facilitate the RD & PR Department in obtaining the subsidy (CFA) from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India for reimbursing to the State Government. In this regard, the RD & PR Department would submit the application in the format stipulated by MNRE.

3.2.9. Warranty

TEDA should ensure the norms for good quality as per the approved standards of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE). There should be warranty for each item such as solar panel, battery, etc. which is to be taken care in the agreement itself. The SPV lighting system will have a warranty of two years. Further, the rate for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract(CAMC) will be called for another 3 years (beyond 2 years warranty period) through tendering process.

Depending on the rates quoted and the funds available, the number of years for CAMC will be finalized by TEDA.

3.2.10. Training Materials

TEDA will bring out Brochures/Hand outs and other training materials on the usage and maintenance of the SPV lighting equipments. A Handout on Dos and Don'ts will also be prepared and made available by TEDA.

3.2.11. Facilitation and Co-ordination by District Administration

- The list of Village Panchayats selected along with the details of houses where SPV Home Lighting Systems are to be installed should be communicated to TEDA well in advance.
- Coordination with Project Management Consultant appointed by TEDA through District Managers of TEDA, for the installation of SPV Home Lighting Systems.

- The full address and contact phone numbers of the manufacturers / suppliers / installation and commissioning contractors (AMC holders) should be made available at the District level, Block level and at the Village Panchayat level by TEDA for easy and effective communication at times of need.

3.2.12. Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC)

The Warranty and the Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) entered with TEDA on behalf of the beneficiaries will be handed over to the beneficiaries after successful installation.

3.2.13. 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.

3.2.13.1. 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.
- While preparing the list of beneficiaries, priority should be given to differently abled, Widows, destitute and deserted women, Women headed families, transgender, 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 RD&PR Department may verify the fact and with the concurrence of 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 Panchayats should draw a list of eligible beneficiaries living below poverty line under this scheme and place it before the Grama Sabha for its approval.

3.2.13.2. Verification of the Beneficiaries

The Village Panchayats should handover the list of selected beneficiaries to the concerned Block Development Officer (BP). The

Deputy Block Development Officer and the Overseer concerned should verify the beneficiary list relating to land ownership, area etc. at field level and ensure eligibility of the beneficiary and availability of the site.

3.2.14. Allocation of Houses

- i) At the State level, the Commissioner of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj shall allocate the number of houses to be constructed under this scheme for each district in a year.
- ii) At the District level, the District Collector shall decide the allotment of houses to the Village Panchayats.
- iii) The Village Panchayats should allocate the houses to the selected beneficiaries based on the priority category of people found in the BPL Permanent Wait List approved by the Grama Sabha.

3.2.15. Issue of Work Order

The Block Development Officer (BP) should issue the work order to the beneficiaries

after confirming the eligibility of beneficiaries with reference to title and site by the officials of RD & PR Department.

3.2.16. Marking of Site

The concerned Union Overseer of a particular Village Panchayat shall mark the site as per the type design approved by the Government for commencement of work.

3.2.17. Supply of materials

Cement:

At the State level, necessary steps will be taken to ensure smooth supply of cement for construction of houses at Village Panchayats. Cement supply shall be arranged through M/s. TANCEM and the payment may be made by the DRDA at District level and the amount will be adjusted from the scheme fund.

Steel:

Similarly, Project Directors of DRDAs should take necessary steps to procure steel based on the needs of their district and payment will be made by the DRDAs at District

level and the amount will be adjusted from the scheme fund.

Doors and Windows:

Beneficiaries themselves can arrange for doors and windows. If the beneficiary is unable to arrange for doors & windows, the PD, DRDAs should arrange for supply of the same and the cost will be deducted from the scheme fund .

For all the above procurements, the PDs of DRDA should work out the total quantity of materials needed for their district based on the number of houses allocated to them.

3.2.18. Mode of Implementation

- Administrative sanction for the scheme based on the district allocation for each year shall be accorded by the District Collector.
- The execution of the scheme is entrusted to the BDO (Block Panchayat).
- The Block Engineers shall be responsible for the construction and other technical aspects of construction. The Assistant

Executive Engineers shall check measure the progress of the houses.

- The Project Directors, DRDA, Executive Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers (RD) should frequently inspect the execution and progress of the houses and ensure early completion. They should also ensure no deviation from the type design or any other discrepancies under this scheme.

3.2.19. Documentation

Photographs exhibiting the beneficiary positioned in front of the house in which they reside at present shall be taken. The same process has to be repeated after completion of the house. These processes have to be documented by the Block Development Officer (BP) before making final payment. Out of the fund allocated for the scheme, 1% is earmarked for documentation and other Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities.

3.2.20. Monitoring

The District Collector will review the progress of the construction of houses as well as the installation of SPV Home Lighting System with the Block officials and the Officials of TEDA. Nodal Officers in the cadre of Assistant Director must be appointed by the District Collector to supervise the works. The District Collector and the Project Director, District Rural Development Agency are the Officers responsible for the proper implementation of the scheme at District level and TEDA at the State level for the installation of SPV Home Lighting Systems.

3.2.21. Release of funds

- The Commissioner of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj is authorized to draw the annual allocation for CMSPGHS in two half-yearly instalments. The fund in turn will be released to the districts at the rate of Rs.1,50,000/- per house. The balance amount at the rate of Rs.30,000/- per house shall be deposited with Chairman & Managing

Director, TEDA for the purchase and installation of materials relating to Solar Powered Lighting System. The DRDA shall release the funds directly to the respective Village Panchayats. The funds should not be routed through the Blocks.

- A separate Savings Bank Account at District Headquarters shall be opened exclusively for **CMSPGHS** in the name of District Collector/ Chairman, DRDA. There shall be only one **CMSPGHS** Savings Bank Account at the district level.
- In the Village Panchayats where the **CMSPGHS** is implemented, a **sixth account**, namely, **'Village Panchayat CMSPGHS Account'** shall be operated. The mode of operation of Village Panchayat CMSPGHS Scheme Account is described as under:
 - Receipts: The receipts to be credited to the 'Village Panchayat

CMSPGHS Account' shall be the funds received under CMSPGH Scheme.

- Expenditure: The funds credited into the Village Panchayat CMSPGHS Account will be spent for payment of the works pertaining to the CMSPGH Scheme as prescribed.
- Mode of Operation: The above account shall be operated jointly by the President and Vice-President of the Village Panchayats as is done for the Village Panchayat Fund Accounts concerned. However, Collectors should instruct all the concerned bank branches in writing to make suitable ledger/computer entries to honour the cheques signed by the President and Vice-President of the Village Panchayat only if they are accompanied by the release order in the form of proceedings of the BDO (BP) for the payment of works from the Village Panchayat

CMSPGHS Account concerned. The cheque leaf should also be stamped with "To be paid only if accompanied by proceedings of the BDO (Block Panchayat)". No self-cheques or drawals based on withdrawal forms are to be permitted for this account.

- The Government is empowered to amend these guidelines based on the exigencies that may arise from time to time.

3.2.22. Implementation of CMSPGHS

During the year 2011-12, 60,000 Green Houses have been taken up at a total estimate cost of Rs. 1,080 crores. Of which 1,107 houses have been completed so far and the balance 58,893 houses are in progress at different stages.

For the year 2012-13, 60,000 Green Houses will be taken up with an allocation of RS.1,080 crores.

3.3 Energisation of the Street Lights with Solar Power

In the Governor Addresses for the year 2011-12, it has been announced on 03.06.2011 that the Government will initiate steps to energise street lights with solar energy on an experimental basis. Accordingly, the Government issued orders in G.O. Ms. No. 91, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (SGS 3) Department, dated 17.11.2011 for energisation of street lights with solar power in Village Panchayats. One lakh street lights will be energized with solar power over a period of 5 years from 2011-12. Every year 20,000 street lights will be energized with solar power from 2011-12 onwards.

A sum of Rs. 52.50 crores has been sanctioned for the implementation of energisation of Street lights with solar energy. The Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency will be the implementing Agency for this scheme. 20,000 street lights will be energized with solar power during the year 2011-12 on the following lines.

- i) 1,000 stand alone street lights will be installed with solar power.
- ii) 1,000 new street lights will be energized with solar power using 500w centralized solar power plant for every 10 street lights.
- iii) 18,000 existing street lights will be energized with solar power using 500 W centralised solar power plant for every 10 street lights in a row.

Village Panchayats and locations for each category for energisation of street lights with solar power should be selected taking into account the following points:

i) The District Collectors have to select the Village Panchayats and decide the number of lights to be energized with solar power for such Village Panchayats.

ii) All the street lights allotted for the year 2011-12 should be installed in the habitations / Panchayats in which Tamil Nadu Habitations Village Improvement Scheme (THAI) is implemented in the current year.

iii) Stand alone new street lights with solar power should be installed in the places of burial ground, pathway to burial ground, and remote places where there is no electricity facility.

iv) Stand alone SPV street lights should be erected in between the existing street lights that are scattered at remote locations.

v) New street lights should be proposed with solar power in a row of 10 street lights in the Villages where there is no electricity facility as of now.

vi) Habitations affected by chronic Voltage problems should be given priority.

vii) Street lights located in the far flung location and forest areas should be given priority for replacement.

viii) Replacement of incandescent lights should be given top priority.

ix) Individual lights located in remote locations of the habitations should be given priority.

x) A row of existing street lights should be identified to energise through centralised power plant after replacing the existing incandescent lamps / tube lights.

xi) The location of street lights should be identified in consultation with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

xii) The District Collector should arrange for provision of required space in the Village Panchayats wherever the centralized power plant is proposed to be installed.

The Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency is the Executing Agency in respect of Energisation of Solar Powered Street Lights. The TEDA has called for tenders to finalise the agencies. The works will be commenced by TEDA after finalization of tender..

3.4 Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme

This Government have launched the Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme (CSIDS) 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 will also be taken up wherever necessary.

New school buildings will be constructed with RCC roof with weathering course on the basis of the strength of the students. The space available in the school premises will be used for the new construction and if adequate space is not available, a new floor will be added to the existing RCC building after assessing the structural stability of the building.

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

Existing water supply system in the schools which are in damaged condition will be taken up for repairs. Extension of pipeline will

be provided wherever necessary. New water supply connection from the Panchayat or a new borewell will also be provided wherever necessary.

This Government shall ensure that all the Panchayat Union schools have adequate toilet facilities for girls and boys. Incinerators will be provided for the benefit of girl students. If it is felt that funds under Total Sanitation Campaign are insufficient to meet the requirement of new toilets, the toilets can be taken up under the Comprehensive School Infra-structure Development Scheme also. This scheme is being implemented in the Panchayat Union schools located in Town Panchayats and Grade III Municipalities also.

Committees have been constituted at the district level to take up a detailed survey for ascertaining the infrastructural needs of the schools. During 2011-12, an amount of Rs.100 crores has been earmarked.

Likewise, for the year 2012-13 also, a sum of Rs.100 crores will be allocated. In addition to the existing approved works, it is

proposed to take up Compound Wall and Cycle Sheds in Schools wherever necessary.

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

The MLACDS is fully funded by the State Government and each MLA identifies and proposes the works to be executed in his Constituency. The Scheme is implemented both in rural and urban areas. The main objective of the scheme is to identify and implement the essential works to bridge the critical infrastructure gaps in the Assembly Constituencies. The allocation of funds under the scheme had been increased from Rs.1.75 crores to Rs.2.00 crores per Constituency per annum from 2011-2012 onwards..

The District Collector will accord administrative sanction for the chosen works and will also identify the implementing agency. An amount of Rs.1.125 crores shall be earmarked for priority works, exclusively fixed by the Government and out of the remaining Rs.0.875 crores, the MLAs can choose works of

their choice in tune with the guidelines of the scheme.

3.5.1. Salient Features

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

A sum of Rs.1.125 crores shall be earmarked for works prescribed under "Tied Component". In order to provide infrastructure facilities to schools, a sum of Rs.25 lakhs 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 Lakhs 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 lakhs each for aids & appliances for differently abled persons.

From the remaining amount of Rs.62.50 lakhs under Tied Component, the MLA can choose one or more of the following works for

any amount according to his choice, subject to the overall ceiling of Rs.62.50 lakhs.

a) In Rural Areas:

1. Installation of Solar Street Lights
2. Upgradation of gravel / WBM Roads to BT standard
3. Renewal of badly wornout 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 compounds walls for Government and Local Body Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Government Veterinary Hospitals and also for Government Schools, Panchayat Union Schools, Adi Dravida Schools, Kallar Reclamation School, Government Colleges and Government Hostels.
6. Provision of infrastructural facilities to Government Special schools for the disabled and Government Orphanages
7. Construction of bridges

8. Provision of additional Burial Grounds / Cremation Grounds to the Village Panchayats not having such facilities.
9. Construction of new houses as per IAY norms

b) In Urban Areas:

1. Installation of Solar Street Lights
2. Upgradation of gravel / WBM Roads to BT standard
3. Renewal of badly wornout 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 compounds walls for Government and Local Body Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Government Veterinary Hospitals and also for Government Schools, Panchayat Union Schools, Adi Dravida Schools, Kallar Reclamation School, Government Colleges and Government Hostels.
6. Provision of infrastructural facilities to Government Special schools for the disabled and Government Orphanages

7. Construction of bridges
8. Provision of infrastructure 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.

3.5.1.2. Works to be taken up under Untied Component of Rs.87.50 lakhs

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 lakhs.

3.5.1.3 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 Governments, including Public Sector Undertakings, Co-operatives and Societies.

Exception: i) Construction of Public Distribution Shops, Direct Procurement Centres, Milk Producers' 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: Repairs to houses of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board constructed (upto 31.12.2002) under Government Schemes can be taken up not exceeding Rs.25000/- 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 Dravida 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 for 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 Party 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 enquires, 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

Exception: Construction of New Houses as per IAY norms in Village Panchayats / Town Panchayats.

6. All Works involving Commercial establishment /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 land belonging to or owned by religious faiths / groups.

12. Desilting of ponds, ooranies, 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.
o 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.

- o 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 scheme.

3.5.1.4. Implementation of MLACDS

During the year 2011 – 12, a sum of Rs.470.00 crores has been allocated under the scheme and 13,766 works have been taken up. For the year 2012 -13 also, an allocation of Rs.470.00 crores will be provided under this scheme.

3.6. Rural Buildings Maintenance and Renovation scheme

Rural Buildings Maintenance and Renovation Scheme (RBMRS) was introduced

with an objective of maintaining the assets of rural Local Bodies. Continuous and proper maintenance of the buildings should be done so as to have the full utilisation of the assets created. The assets of the rural Local Bodies such as Anganwadi Centers, Panchayat office buildings, Overhead tanks, Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women etc., are taken up under the scheme for renovation. During 2011- 12, renovation of 12,811 Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women was carried out exclusively under the Rural Buildings Maintenance and Renovation Scheme with a total allocation of Rs.170 crores, so as to bring them back to usable condition and in order to alleviate the sufferings of rural women.

This scheme will be continued in the year 2012 – 13 also with an allocation of Rs.100 crores.

3.7. Self Sufficiency Scheme

In order to encourage the self-reliant attitude of the rural community and their public participation, this Government has re-introduced the Self Sufficiency Scheme in

2011-12. This scheme is being implemented both in rural and urban areas. The public shall contribute not less than one third of the estimated cost of the identified work.

The Self Sufficiency Scheme is a participatory demand driven scheme to promote and strengthen self-help and self-reliant attitude of the village community. The scheme involved the village community directly in the developmental process of planning, resource mobilization, execution and maintenance. The Government supplemented the efforts of the community with financial assistance and provided technical support. The felt-needs of the public could be easily articulated and covered under the scheme.

3.7.1. Selection of works

- The felt-need for taking up a work may originate from individuals, groups, institutions, public or private companies or from the community.
- The District Collector shall receive the application from the public on the work identified and also the acceptance

letter for contributing not less than one third of the estimated cost.

- Estimates will be prepared only after ascertaining the need and the feasibility of the work proposed.
- In case the requirement exceeds the allocation, the District Collector shall arrange the works in the order of priority and accord administrative sanction.

3.7.2. List of works

3.7.2.1. List of permitted works

- Construction of buildings, laboratories, toilets and compound walls/fencing to Government, Adi Dravidar, Tribal, Panchayat Union and Kallar Reclamation Schools, Government Colleges and Government Hostels.
- Construction of buildings, Compound walls and fencing to Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Sub-centres, Veterinary Dispensaries, Livestock Centres and libraries.

- Construction of libraries in urban areas, Noon Meal Centres, School Kitchen sheds, Anganwadis and Public Distribution shops in rural and urban areas.
- Creation of community assets like drinking water sources, Cement concrete roads and Threshing floors in rural and urban areas.
- Maintenance of all community assets. Priority shall be given for maintenance of Integrated Sanitary Complex for Women.
- Construction of bridges, culverts, upgradation of gravel/WBM roads to BT standard, renewal of wornout BT roads, improvement of streets and lanes with brick or metal stones or cement slabs or cement concrete.
- Formation, improvement and maintenance of Parks, Play grounds, Traffic Islands,

Fountains, Street lights (including solar lights).

- Purchase of Furniture, Computers and accessories for Government and Panchayat Union Schools, Libraries and buildings for the use of the public. Old computers and accessories should not be purchased.
- Construction of classrooms, laboratories and toilets in 100% Government-aided and 100% Tamil medium schools.

3.7.2.2. List of Prohibited Works

The following works cannot be taken up under the SSS unless specifically included in the exceptions:

- 1) Construction of Office and Residential buildings belonging to Central and State Governments, including Public Sector Undertakings and Co-operative Societies.

Exception: Construction, Repair and Renovation of residential units of Primary Health Centres / Government Hospitals, Construction of buildings, compound walls for all types of Government hospitals, Primary Health Centres and Government Veterinary Hospitals, Construction of Public Distribution Shops, Direct Procurement Centres, Milk Producers' Co-operative Societies and Bulk Chilling Centres can however, be taken up.

2) Purchase of all movable items, equipments and furniture.

Exception: Purchase of furniture and equipments for Government Schools, Panchayat Union Schools, Adi Dravida and Tribal Welfare Schools, Kallar Reclamation Schools, Noon Meal Centres, Anganwadis, Government Colleges, Government Students Hostels, Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centres and Government Veterinary Hospitals are permitted.

3) Any work in Government-aided and Self-financing Schools and Colleges.

Exception: Construction of class rooms, laboratories and toilets in 100% Government aided schools can be taken up if they have only Tamil as medium of instruction. The assistance by way of Government grant under this scheme to an eligible aided school should not exceed Rs.10 lakhs in a particular year. Once a Government aided school as above has been assisted, it is not eligible for further assistance under this scheme for a period of next 3 years.

For such cases, apart from the District Collector making his own enquiries, the following certificates should 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 must be 100% Government aided. No self-financing course /

classes are run in the above school in the same campus or different campuses under the same management.

- 4) All works involving commercial establishments / units.
- 5) Loans and Grants, contribution to any Central and State/UT Relief Funds.
- 6) Acquisition of land or any compensation for land acquired.
- 7) Reimbursement of any type of completed or partly completed works or items.
- 8) Assets for individual/family benefits.
- 9) All revenue and recurring expenditure.
- 10) Works within the places of religious worship and on land belonging to or owned by religious faiths /groups.
- 11) Desilting of ponds, ooranies, rivers, tanks, canals, channels and the like.

Exception: Desiltation, consolidation of bunds & construction / renovation of sluices/ surplus weirs etc., of PWD tanks only, if found

essential in the opinion of the District Collectors. The public contribution should not be less than 50% of the estimate prepared by PWD. The upstream / downstream supply channels may be taken up under MGNREGS / IAMWARM wherever applicable.

- 12) Gravel / WBM roads (roads upto BT standard only should be taken up).
- 13) Installation of Sodium Vapour Lamp / High Mast Lights

3.7.3.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 work if the public contribution is 50% or more of the estimate of the work. But in case of desiltation of PWD tanks even if the public contribution is 50% or more the work should be executed only through tender.

3.7.4. Scheme implementation

An amount of Rs.100 crores was allocated for the year 2011-12 to take up works under the scheme. Out of the total amount, Rs. 25 crores was earmarked for providing additional funding to the districts and for sanction of special schemes vested with the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. The balance amount of Rs.75 crores was released to the districts and Chennai Corporation on the basis of population.

1,255 works were taken up under the Self Sufficiency Scheme during the year 2011-12 and public contribution to the tune of Rs.60.00 crores had been raised, to create useful community assets. Out of the works taken up, 23% of works were sanctioned for road connectivity, 7% for construction of

School Buildings, Toilets, Laboratory, Noon Meal Centres etc. and 7% for Water Supply works.

Additional funds to the tune of Rs.25.00 crores were released to the districts for undertaking special schemes and for providing additional requirements made by certain districts.

An amount of Rs.100 crores will be allocated in the budget 2012-13 for creating useful and need based community assets.

3.8. Rural Infrastructure Scheme (RIS)

Since the objective of the Rural Infrastructure Scheme was to stabilize the assets created under MGNREGS and to create basic infrastructure facilities and durable assets in the villages, this Government shall continue the implementation of Rural Infrastructure Scheme. During 2011-12, an amount of Rs.250 crores had been allotted for this purpose under State Finance Commission Grant and the priority had been given below:

- the upgradation of existing Earthen and Gravel roads into WBM roads;
- upgradation of existing WBM roads into BT Roads;
- repairs to the sluices, surplus weirs, construction of retaining wall in the water bodies desilted under MGNREGS; and
- construction of culverts and retaining walls in the newly formed roads under MGNREGS.

For the year 2012-13, Rs.250 crores will be allocated to take up works to stabilize MGNREGS works and all weather roads.

3.9. Renovation of Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women

Provision of sanitary facilities for women was one of the priority areas of the Rural Development Department when this Government was in power in 2001. The non availability of sanitary facilities impacts the 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 the women besides improving general hygiene and health to the rural people.

The Government in 2001 decided to build Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women in all the 12,618 Village Panchayats in the State, at an approximate area of 750 sq.ft. each. The selected sites were easily accessible to the rural women and nearer to the habitations. Each complex had 14 water closets, 2 bathrooms, 1 Pump room with Pumpset, 1 water tub and stone-paved washing facilities. Adequate water supply for washing and bathing requirements were also ensured. 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 & lighting and the allottee 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 1 per Panchayat Union at a cost of Rs.2.00 lakhs 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 lakhs. However, most of the Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women were rendered unusable since the previous Government did not give adequate attention for its maintenance.

As per the directions of the Honourable Chief Minister, 12,793 sanitary complexes which were in the state of disuse have been renovated at a cost of Rs.170 crores thereby restoring the basic sanitation facilities of the rural women.

3.9.1. Maintenance of Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women

3.9.1.1. Formation of User Groups

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 with

the assistance of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women from among the women Self Help Group members and Hamlet Level Federations. These User Groups have also been trained on the use and maintenance of Complexes. A Booklet on use and maintenance of Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women has been prepared and given to all the User Groups as Ready Reckoner.

3.9.1.2. Direct Maintenance:

The Village Panchayats shall ensure the availability of electricity connection in the complex. The current consumption charges in respect of water supply and lighting is met out of the Village Panchayat General Fund. In order to ensure continuous functioning of the complex, any minor repair/maintenance work like maintenance of pump sets and cleaning of septic tanks are to be attended to by the Village Panchayat and the expenditure to be met out of the Village Panchayat General Fund.

User Groups should follow up with the Village Panchayats so that the current consumption charges are regularly paid, septic

tanks are cleaned at periodic intervals and minor repairs are attended then and there, by the Village Panchayat concerned.

3.9.1.3. Day to Day Maintenance through User Groups

The day to day maintenance of the Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women is undertaken by the User Group through a nominal contribution given by the user-members. The User Group may engage an outsider or a member of the Group as Sanitary worker, for daily cleaning of the Sanitary Complex.

3.9.2. Constitution of Monitoring Committees

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 following and take necessary follow up action:

- Functioning status of each and every Integrated Sanitary Complexes for Women.
- Maintenance of the Complexes by User Groups.
- Periodic maintenance by Village Panchayats.
- Feedback given by the User Groups.
- Feedback on inspections made by the members of the Committee / Zonal Officers.

3.10. Clean Village Campaign

In order to create a momentum to bring about a sanitary revolution in the State, this Government launched "Clean Village Campaign" in 2003. The Clean Village Campaign encompassed all activities taken up in the village for environmental sanitation.

The objectives of the Clean Village Campaign are:

- To create more awareness to the community on the adverse consequences of open defecation practices.
- To recognize the special needs of different categories of people and promote sanitation needs of specific groups like children, women, adolescents, aged people, disabled, etc.
- To promote environmental sanitation in all institutions like Anganwadis, Schools, public places, etc.
- To develop and promote technology options for different geographic locations and conditions of water availability, depth of water table, etc.
- To promote hygienic behaviour through change in knowledge-attitude practices and skills for improving environmental sanitation.
- To empower the community and local governments in planning and implementation, strengthening their managerial capacity and responsibility on all aspects of environmental sanitation.

- To enable net-working, coordination and better convergence of various agencies and groups working in this sector with a view to optimise efficiency in implementation and ensuring sustainability of systems.

The strategy is focused on mobilising the community through intensive IEC activities with the involvement of Village Panchayats and various other Departments. The components of Clean Village Campaign are:

1. Eliminating the practice of open defecation
2. Water conservation and waste water re-use
3. Solid waste management
4. Night soil based Biogas plant

The Village Panchayats with 100% sanitation coverage in individual households, schools and were free from open defecation with clean environment through solid waste management and water conservation and also the provision of rain water harvesting in

all the houses, were eligible to be nominated for a cash award of Rs.5.00 lakhs by the State. The Government disbursed awards every year to 15 such Village Panchayats as a "Cash and Recognition Incentive".

Clean Village Campaign which was shelved by the previous Government was revived and re-introduced by this Government during 2011-12 with an allocation of Rs.1.55 crores for giving cash award of Rs.5 lakhs for 31 selected Village Panchayats, at the rate of one Village Panchayat from each district. This scheme will continue in 2012-13 also with an allocation of Rs.1.55 crores.

3.11. Programme for Comprehensive Development of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts.

To curb the rise of Naxalite elements in the backward districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri, a Socio-economic Development Programme was launched in the year 2003-04. Under the scheme, works are taken up such as construction of new houses, repair of Group

Houses, distribution of tool kits and implements for youth, individual assistance to differently abled / widow and destitutes.

During the year 2011-12, out of the total allocation of Rs.57 crores, 1,601 works have been taken up.

For the year 2012-13, a sum of Rs.57 crores will be provided.

4. CENTRAL SCHEMES

4.1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was conceptualized and enacted as an Act in the Parliament in September 2005 to give a statutory backing to the scheme.

The objective of the Act is to enhance the livelihood security in rural areas by providing atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The primary objective of the scheme is to augment the

wage employment and the auxiliary objective is to strengthen natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation, soil erosion, etc., and thus encourage sustainable development.

In Tamil Nadu, the scheme was first notified on 2.2.2006 in 6 districts of the State, which was subsequently extended to other districts in a phased manner.

Coverage of Districts in Phases under MGNREGS

Phase – I (2.2.2006 onwards)	Phase –II (1.4.2007 onwards)	Phase – III (1.4.2008 onwards)	
1. Cuddalore 2. Villupuram 3. Tiruvanna malai 4. Nagapattinam 5. Dindigul 6. Sivagangai	1. Thanjavur 2. Tiruvarur 3. Karur 4. Tirunelveli	1. Kanchi puram 2. Tiruvallur 3. Vellore 4. Salem 5. Namakkal 6. Dharmapuri 7. Krishnagiri 8. Erode 9. Coimbatore 10. Nilgiris	11. Trichy 12. Perambalur 13. Ariyalur 14. Pudukkottai 15. Madurai 16. Theni 17. Ramanatha puram 18. Virudhunagar 19. Thoothukudi 20. Kanniya kumari 21. Tiruppur

4.1.1 Salient features of the scheme

- Adult members of rural households willing to do unskilled manual work may register in writing or orally, with the Village Panchayat.
- The Village Panchayat will issue a job card, bearing the photo and the register number, free of cost.
- Job card is issued within 15 days of application / oral request.
- Job card holders may apply for employment in writing. In such cases, the Village Panchayat will issue a dated receipt, which will stand as a guarantee to provide employment within 15 days.
- The worksite is ordinarily within a radius of 5 kms. of the Village and if the distance exceeds 5 kms, additional wage of 10% of existing wage rate is payable to meet the additional transportation and living expenses.

- The wages are paid according to the Minimum Wages Act 1948, for agricultural labourers in the State.
- The wage notified by GOI per person per day is Rs.119/- till 2011-12. Further, GOI have recently increased and notified the wage as Rs.132/-.
- Wages are equal to both men and women.
- Disbursement of wages is normally done on weekly basis and should be paid within 15 days.
- One third of the beneficiaries should be women.
- Work site facilities such as drinking water, first aid kit, shade etc., are provided.
- As per the guidelines, the shelf of projects for a Village is recommended by the Grama Sabha and 50% of the works should be allotted to Village Panchayats for execution. In case of Tamil Nadu,

only the Village Panchayats execute the works.

- The wage and material component ratio has to be maintained at 60:40. In Tamil Nadu 100% labour intensive works alone are taken up under MGNREGS.
- No contractors or machineries are allowed.
- The Central Government bears 100% wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75% of the material cost including wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.
- Grama Sabha conducts the social audit in respect of MGNREGS through Village Social Auditors.
- Grievance redressal mechanism is in place to ensure quick response and a Toll free Help line (1299) has also been provided.
- All accounts and records of the scheme are available for public scrutiny.
- Under Section 12 of the MGNREG Act, Government of Tamil Nadu have

constituted State Employment Guarantee Council to advise, evaluate and monitor the implementation of the scheme.

4.1.2 Permissible works

- Water Conservation and Water Harvesting.
- Drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation.
- Irrigation canals, including micro and minor irrigation works.
- Provision of irrigation facility, plantation, horticulture and land development in the lands owned by households belonging to the SC/ST, small and marginal farmers, beneficiaries of land reforms, Indira Awaas Yojana and BPL families.
- Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks.
- Land development works.
- Flood control works including drainage in water logged areas.

- Rural connectivity for all weather access including culverts and drains wherever necessary.
- Any other work that may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

4.1.3. Achievements during 2011-12

4.1.3.1. Financial Achievement

This Government is able to generate 33 crore mandays as against the target of 30.02 crores during 2011-12.

Achievement as against Labour Budget

Labour Budget					
Financial (Rs. in crores)			Physical (Mandays) in crores		
Approved	Achieved	%	Approved	Achieved	%
3,572	3,000	84	30.02	33.00	110

Achievement as against available funds

(Rs. in crore)

Opening Balance	Central Release	State Release	Total	Expenditure	%
502.79	2,815.52	357.00	3,675.31	3,000	82

4.1.3.2. Increase in wages to the MGNREGS Workers

The minimum wage prescribed for 8 hours of work under MGNREGS is Rs.119/-. As the wages are disbursed on out turn basis, prior to 15.05.2011, on many occasions, the beneficiaries got wages in the range of Rs.80/- to Rs.90/-. The Government have conducted mass awareness campaigns and 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 to Overseer etc., to enable the workers to get more wages. Based on the awareness campaign, the

average wage rate has increased from Rs.90/- to - Rs.105/-.

4.1.3.3 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. This has led to:

- i) Huge assemblage of workers at a single worksite.
- ii) Difficulties in supervising the workers.
- iii) Prevented the workers coming from far off habitations to the worksite.
- iv) A system of 'Rotation of Habitations' was practiced which has resulted in the family availing only 54 days of employment on an average as against an entitlement of 100 days.

In order to provide more employment opportunities to MGNREGS workers, this Government have committed to take up more number of works in a Village

Panchayat based on the number of habitations and number of workers regularly attending the MGNREGS works. Hence, the Habitations in a Village Panchayat are grouped into clusters in such a way that whenever the work is being executed in a habitation of a particular cluster, all the workers can come to the worksite from the habitations of that particular cluster. Thus, the number of allowed works in a Village Panchayat is equal to the number of clusters.

This system effected from October, 2011 resulted in:

- i) Drawing more number of workers to the MGNREGS worksite as the worksite is very nearer to their habitations.
- ii) Mandays generated has increased from 26.86 crores (2010-11) to 33 crores (2011-12).
- iii) Expenditure per week on payment of wages to the workers has increased from Rs.50 crores to Rs.75 crores.

4.1.3.4. Land Development Activities

- The MGNREG Act provides for development of lands owned by households belonging to the SC/ST, Small and Marginal farmers or the lands of BPL families and the lands of the beneficiaries of IAY and Land reforms. Such land development activities are being practiced in some States.
- With the Government's decision to explore the possibility of extending land development activities including irrigation facilities, horticulture etc., to the eligible landholders, the following actions are initiated during 2011-12:
 - Two teams of officials sent to Andhra Pradesh and Kerala to make a thorough study about their implementation.
 - Detailed discussions were held with Agriculture and Horticulture Departments.

- Time and motion studies are being conducted in Erode, Trichy, Virudhunagar and Vellore Districts.

Based on the above activities, a detailed draft guidelines have been prepared in consultation with Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forest and Horticulture Departments. Land development works in the lands of individual farmers and afforestation works in common Government lands will be taken up from 2012-13 onwards.

4.1.3.5. Payment of Wages through Banks:

It has been decided by this Government to dispense with the policy of the existing practice of disbursing the wages to the workers in cash. Accordingly, the wages to the beneficiaries will be disbursed through the Banks in a phased manner with the following objectives:

- i) to curtail any scope for malpractices and

- ii) to separate the wage disbursement agency from implementing agency.

In this regard, following steps have been taken: -

- On a pilot basis, payment of wages is being made through Banks in 385 Village Panchayat (i.e One Village Panchayat per Block).
- Bank accounts have been opened by 94,12,748 MGNREGS workers, which is 82% of the total registered workers.
- Validation of individual Bank accounts of MGNREGS workers are being undertaken in all the Village Panchayats in order to make payment of wages through Banks in the remaining 12,139 Village Panchayats from 2012-13 in phased manner as detailed below:
 - a) Payment of wages by Banks through Banking Correspondents will be started from April 2012 in 4,446 Village Panchayats where already Banking

Correspondents have been appointed by the respective Banks.

- b) In 6,837 Village Panchayats, where the population is between 1,001-2,000 payment of wages through Banks will be started after May' 2012.
- c) In the remaining Village Panchayats where population is below 1,000 the payment of wages will be done by adopting alternative methods ie., Post Office or Panchayat Level Federation or through the Banks who are willing to extend the Banking Correspondent model to these Village Panchayats also.
- This Government have committed to resort to efficient Fund transfer Management (e-FMS) system. The funds from centralised MGNREGS account maintained at the nodal banks will be electronically transferred to the respective accounts of the individual MGNREGS workers through 'NREGA soft', which is the software developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

4.1.3.6. Selection of works by using Satellite based Maps

- This Government have already committed to generate satellite-based maps indicating the current status of water bodies (Tank/Oorani/Supply channels) in comparison to the original capacity of the water bodies;
- Using Topo sheets of 1960s and LISS – IV Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellite images, detailed Blockwise maps indicating the original extent of water bodies and the current status have been generated by Institute of Remote Sensing (IRS), Anna University. Based on the detailed field verification by the RD officials the exact, present field conditions have also been incorporated and digitized. Now, the resource map is available for all Districts and District wise, Block wise and Village Panchayat wise maps can be generated.
- As a measure to restore the original capacity of the water bodies, and to

increase the water recharge, it has been ordered to select the works based on these satellite maps during 2012-13.

4.1.4. Social Audit Unit

- Government of India have notified the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Audit of Scheme Rules 2011"
- As per rule 4(1) of MGNREGS Audit of Scheme Rules 2011, the State Government shall identify or establish, under the Act, an independent organization for conduct of Social Audit.
- Based on this, an independent organization "SASTA" (Social Audit Society of Tamil Nadu) will be established to facilitate the conduct of Social Audit by Gram Sabhas.
- 20 State Level Resource Persons had undergone Social Audit training at NIRD, Hyderabad from 2.1.2012 to 6.1.2012.
- Kaniyambadi Block in Vellore District and Koliyanur Block in Villupuram District

have been selected as pilot Blocks for conducting Social Audit.

- 120 Village Level Resource Persons from Vellore and 220 Village Level Resource Persons from Villupuram have been given training from 16.2.2012 to 19.2.2012 for conducting the Social Audit.
- The Social Audit schedule in pilot Blocks have been drawn and Social Audit was conducted in 24 Village Panchayats of Kaniyambadi Block and 44 Village Panchayats of Koliyanur Block from 7.3.2012 to 20.03.2012.
- The regular Social Audit will be conducted twice a year in all the 12,524 Village Panchayats through SASTA from 2012-13 onwards.

4.1.5. Special works for Differently Abled

- As per 5.5.10 of MGNREGS guidelines, suitable works for differently abled persons have to be given under MGNREGS. For this purpose, meetings

with reputed NGOs were organized on 12.01.2012 & 03.02.2012 and it has been decided to conduct time and motion studies in selected Village Panchayats of the following 4 Districts on pilot basis.

Sl. No	Districts	Blocks	Village Panchayats
1	Kancheepuram	Tiruporur	1.Kovalam 2.Kayar
2	Coimbatore	Karamadi	1.Chikuarampalayam 2.Jadayampalaym
3	Madurai	Madurai East	1.Kallanthri 2.Othakadai
4	Tirunelveli	Kadayanallur Shenkottai	1.Kulaiyaneri 2.IIathur

- Time and motion study has been taken from 17.02.2012 to 14.03.2012 for 4 weeks continuously. Based on the study, special wage rates have been arrived for disabled persons. The special wage rates for the disabled persons will be effected from 2012-13 onwards.

- Apart from this, already the works like distribution of drinking water, helper in 'worksite creche' etc., are being given to physically challenged persons continuously.

4.1.6. New initiatives in 2012-13

This Government proposes to introduce the following initiatives under MGNREGS during 2012-13.

- Land Development activities will be taken up in the Land belonging to SC / ST, Small and Marginal farmers, Land belonging to IAY Beneficiaries, Below Poverty Line families and Land belonging to families of Land Reforms.
- Afforestation and land development activities will be taken up in common / government lands in coordination with Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forest and Horticulture Departments
- Payment of wages to MGNREGS workers through Banks / Panchayat Level

Federation (PLF) / Post Office will be effected in all 12,524 Village Panchayats.

- Satellite based maps will be given special priority in the selection of works. All Water bodies will be renovated so as to restore the original capacity.
- Social Audit Unit, SASTA, will be established for conducting Social Audit in all Village Panchayats. Social Audit will be conducted twice in a year.
- The Rural Schedule of Rate(RSOR) will be revised based on fresh time motion study by taking into account of the fact that 83% of workers are women and special reference to conveyance of the earth excavated (Lead and Lift).
- Special Wage Rate for differently abled persons will also be adopted.

Government of India have approved the Labour Budget for Tamil Nadu to generate 37.90 crore mandays during 2012-13.

4. 2. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

The objective of the Scheme is construction of houses, free of cost to members of the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers and also to non SC/ST poor people living Below Poverty Line in rural areas. Beneficiaries are selected from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) list approved by the Grama Sabha. Atleast 60% of the total IAY allocation during a financial year should be utilized for construction/ upgradation of dwelling units for SC/ST BPL 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. The Government of India has also earmarked 15% of allocation for the beneficiaries from among the minorities. It is funded by both Centre and State Governments at the ratio of 75:25.

Under Indira Awaas Yojana, the unit cost prescribed by Government of India for the construction of new houses is Rs.45,000/- Out of this, the Central share is Rs.33,750/-

and the State share is Rs.11,250/-. In Tamil Nadu, all the houses constructed under the scheme are provided with RCC roofing and the entire additional cost for this is borne from state funds. Due to considerable raise in the cost of construction materials, this Government has increased the State additional grant for RCC Roof costing from Rs.30,000/- to Rs.55,000/- in G.O.Ms.No.87, RD&PR (CGS1) dated 16.11.2011. Hence, from 2011-12, the unit cost of IAY house in Tamil Nadu is Rs.1.00 lakh, out of which the State Government alone is contributing, Rs.66,250, which is 66.25% and whereas the Centre Share is 33.75%. For the year 2011-12, Rs.1005.53 crores has been allocated for the construction of 1,00,553 new houses under IAY.

For the year 2012-13, around 1 lakh new houses will be constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana.

4.3 Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

The objective of this scheme is to fill the gaps existing in the infrastructure facilities

created through various Central and State schemes thereby enabling wholesome development in both rural and urban areas. The Government of India have enhanced the MPLADS fund outlay from Rs.2.00 crores to Rs.5.00 crores per annum per MP from the financial year 2011-12. The administrative expenses have also been increased from 0.5% to 2% of the annual entitlement of Rs.5.00 crores from the year 2011-12. The District Collector gives administrative sanction for the works. The guidelines contain an illustrative list of works that may be taken up and a 'negative list' of works not permitted under this Scheme. Under the scheme, all maintenance works of any type are prohibited. Desilting of ponds, rivers, tanks, canals, etc, are also treated as maintenance activities and cannot be taken up under MPLADS.

During the year 2011-12, out of the total allocation of Rs.295 crores, 5,229 works have been taken up.

For the year 2012-13, the eligible amount for Tamil Nadu is Rs.295 crores.

4.4 Total Sanitation Campaign

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 Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Government of India to cover all households with water & sanitation facilities and promote hygiene behaviour for overall improvement of health and sanitation in rural areas. The programme is demand-driven and people-centered on the principle of "Low to No subsidy", a nominal subsidy in the form of incentive is given to the rural poor households for construction of toilets. The TSC gives strong emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), capacity building and hygiene education for effective behaviour change, with the involvement of PRIs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), NGOs, etc.

The key intervention areas have been identified as Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL), School Sanitation & Hygiene Education,

Community Sanitary Complex and Anganwadi Toilets.

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

(in Rupees)

Sl. No	Component	GOI	GoTN	Beneficiary contribution	Total Unit Cost
1.	IHHL	2,200 (63%)	1,000 (28%)	300 (9%)	3,500
2.	School Toilet	24,500 (70%)	10,500 (30%)	0	35,000
3.	Anganwadi Toilet	5,600 (70%)	2,400 (30%)	0	8,000
4.	Sanitary Complex	1,20,000 (60%)	40,000 (20%)	40,000 (20%)	2,00,000

The Total Sanitation Campaign which was commenced in Cuddalore and Coimbatore Districts initially was later extended to the remaining districts in a phased manner. The project which was introduced in 1999 has now been extended upto 2017 by Government of India.

The total project outlay is Rs.1,143.67 crores, out of which an amount of Rs.835.15

crores has been released and Rs.679.51 crores incurred as expenditure so far.

4.4.1 Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL)

The main objectives are as under:

- Bring about an overall improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas.
- Accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas.
- Generate felt-demand for sanitation facilities through awareness creation and health education.
- Coverage of Schools/Anganwadis in rural areas with sanitation facilities and promote hygiene education & sanitary habits among students.
- Encourage cost effective and adopt appropriate technologies in sanitation.
- Eliminate open defecation to minimize risk of contamination of drinking water sources and food.

- Convert dry latrines to pour flush latrines and eliminate manual scavenging practice, wherever in existence in rural areas.

This programme aims at covering all the rural families. Incentive provided under the scheme is given to BPL families as the same is considered necessary for total involvement of the community. The APL families are to be motivated to construct the household toilets on their own. The construction of the IHHL is undertaken by the BPL household itself.

As per the existing norms, the unit cost for IHHL is fixed at Rs.3,500 out of which, the Government of India gives Rs.2,200/- and the State Government contributes Rs.1,000/- towards the subsidy and the beneficiary contribution is Rs.300/-.

Under the IHHL component, against the target of 44,22,133 in Tamil Nadu 38,32,686 toilets have been constructed as on 29.2.2012. Out of the remaining 5,89,447 toilets to be constructed, it is proposed to construct 4,72,249 IHHLs during 2012-13.

4.4.2 School Sanitation and Hygiene education

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, mind set 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 therefore forms an integral part of the TSC project. Toilets in anganwadis and in all types of schools i.e. primary, secondary and higher secondary are constructed under the scheme. Emphasis is given for toilets in girl schools.

All activities with regard to the provision of sanitation and hygiene education in Anganwadis and Schools will be done in tandem with social welfare and school education departments. This Government shall

ensure that all Anganwadis and Schools in the State are provided with toilets.

Funding for School Sanitation in a TSC project is shared between the Central Government and State Government in the ratio of 70:30. A total of 53,678 school toilets at a cost of Rs.118.09 crores have been taken up so far.

4.4.3. Anganwadi toilets

It is essential to use Anganwadis as a platform for behavioural change among children as well as the mothers attending it. Each Anganwadi is provided with a baby friendly toilet.

In Tamil Nadu, 24,470 Anganwadi toilets have been constructed. It is proposed to construct 3,500 toilets during 2012-13, at an estimated cost of Rs.2.80 crores.

4.4.4. Community Sanitary Complex

The Community Sanitary Complex is an important component of the TSC and the complexes are set up in any place in the village, which is acceptable to the stake-

holders 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 60:20:20. The Village Panchayat can make the community contribution also. As against the target of 1,438, so far, 1,556 complexes have been constructed at a cost of Rs.31.00 crores.

4.4.5. Rural Sanitary Marts (RSM)

Rural Sanitary Mart 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 technologically 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 crores has been incurred as expenditure for establishing 195 RSMs in 31 districts of the State.

4.4.6. Production Centres

Production centers are the means to improve the production of cost effective, affordable sanitary materials under the TSC project. A maximum amount of Rs.3.50 lakhs 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.65.00 lakhs.

4.4.7. Nirmal Gram Puraskar

Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced the 'Clean Village Campaign' Award in July 2003 for the best performing Village Panchayats in the field of Sanitation, there by 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 giving Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) from 2005 to give a fillip to the Total Sanitation Campaign. The NGP recognized the efforts of PRIs and other institutions towards full sanitation in their respective areas.

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.

So far, 5 Block Panchayats and 2,385 Village Panchayats of Tamil Nadu have received NGP awards for achieving 100% sanitation and over-all cleanliness. The NGP

award incentive amount varies from Rs.50,000 to Rs.5.00 lakhs in case of Village Panchayats and Rs.10.00 lakhs to Rs.20.00 lakhs for Block Panchayats, based on the population.

This Government will add vigour to the sanitation initiatives and ensure a fully sanitized and open defecation free rural Tamil Nadu by strengthening the institutional arrangements and through sustained IEC campaigns.

4.5 Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)

The erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) implemented in the five backward districts of Tamil Nadu through the funding of Union Planning Commission was transferred to Ministry of Panchayat Raj and modified as Backward Regions Grant Fund. The scheme is now implemented in 6 districts viz. Nagapattinam, Sivagangai, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul and Cuddalore Districts.

The BRGF is designed to redress 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. The scheme focuses on strengthening the local governance through capacity building providing professional support to local bodies, for planning, implementation & monitoring their plans and improve the performance and delivery of critical functions.

BRGF consists of two funding windows:-

1. Capacity Building Fund meant to build capacity of the elected representatives and the officials associated with Panchayat Raj Institutions in planning, implementation, monitoring, accounting and improving the accountability & transparency.
2. 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.

A sum of Rs.117.74 crores has been allotted under this scheme for the year 2011-12.

4.6 National Project on Biogas Development

This is a 100% 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. For 2011-12, an amount of Rs.91.25 lakhs has been allocated for the installation of 1000 plants. 760 plants have been completed so far.

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. This time Socio-Economic Survey for identification of BPL families will be 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 will be provided by Ministry of Rural Development and SECC, 2011 will be 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 will support 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) will be preloaded in the Handheld device. The Enumerator appointed by the State Government and the Data-Entry operator trained by the BEL will conduct the actual survey in the field. District Collector is the Principal SECC-2011 Officer (PSO) for the entire district and the survey will be done under his/her overall supervision.

Information that needs to be 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 and Non-Durables & Land. The Socio-Economic and Caste Census will also capture 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 enumerator would record the declaration of the respondents and where he finds that the response is prima facie incorrect, he would enter his remarks regarding the same and the Supervisor would mandatorily visit these houses and verify the veracity of the information. The information would be verified and approved by the Gram Sabha. Detailed procedure for filing claims and objections and its disposal has to be followed. Initially the draft list will be published and at the end of 31st day, the final list will be published and uploaded in the website.

The Government of India has allocated Rs. 8,920.62 lakhs 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 is expected to be completed by August, 2012.

5. ROADS

5.1. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched in 2000 to provide all weather road access to unconnected habitations. PMGSY is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. The programme objective is to provide round-the-year connectivity by all weather roads with necessary culverts and cross drainage structures. Between PMGSY Phase - I (2000-01) and PMGSY Phase - VII (2007-08 - Bharat Nirman Phase - II), 4,949 roads have been taken up for a length of 9,984.32 kms at a cost of Rs.2,024 crores. Out of this, 4,918 works have been completed so far. The remaining works will be completed shortly.

Under Phase VIII, it was proposed to take up upgradation of 1,176 roads for a total length of 2,031 kms. at an estimated cost of Rs.577.90 crores for which Detailed Project Reports were prepared. However, Government of India have stipulated that only the following categories of road works would be considered for approval under PMGSY:

- i. Residual new connectivity coverage envisaged under Phase - I of Bharat Nirman.
- ii. Projects to be taken up with the assistance of World Bank and Asian Development Bank.
- iii. New habitation connectivity in the 33 identified Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.
- iv. Special road connectivity packages announced for the border areas.

Tamil Nadu, being a better performing state, it does not have roads which satisfy the conditions laid down by Government of India as a result of which Tamilnadu was denied

allocation of funds under PMGSY for the past 3 years. Therefore, the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu took up the issue with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India at New Delhi on 6.7.2011 during the finalisation of Annual Plan 2011-12 for Tamil Nadu. Honourable Chief Minister in the meeting also stressed that more funds should be allocated to Tamil Nadu for upgradation and improvement of the existing rural roads.

Due to the intervention of Honourable Chief Minister, Government of India have slightly relaxed its stand and have now sought proposals for population under 500-999 category. Proposals along with Detailed Project Reports will be submitted to Government of India shortly.

Further, considering that even for population under 500-999 category the requirement for Tamilnadu will be limited and the situation warrants that the implementation has to be carried to the next logical phase i.e., to the habitations with the population of 250 – 500. This Government will take all efforts to

impress upon the Government of India to consider the proposals for habitations with the population of 250 – 500.

Left-Out Bridges

In order to ensure uninterrupted connectivity throughout the year, preliminary approval has been obtained from Government of India for taking up 43 Left out Bridges at a total cost of Rs.57.43 crores, which includes State Government's contribution of Rs.14.95 crores in the roads already constructed under PMGSY.

Coir Geo Textiles

As an innovative technological intervention, the Government of India have accorded preliminary approval for proposals of 21 road works using Coir - Geo Textiles Technique to a length of 45.88 Km for the tune of Rs.20.34 crores to take up construction of rural roads using Coir-Geo Textiles under PMGSY.

Detailed Project Reports have been prepared for the above categories and is ready

for forwarding to Government of India for approval.

5.2. NABARD – RIDF Roads

Following the direction from Government of India, NABARD set up Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in 1995-96, to extend financial assistance to the State Governments, Government owned Corporations, Village Panchayats, Self Help Groups and Non-Government Organisations for taking up of infrastructure projects in rural areas. The NABARD has been releasing money under different tranches. Major investments covered under the Fund include rural roads, bridges, minor irrigation structures, schools, health centers and power projects. Loans under RIDF have been sanctioned to Government of Tamil Nadu by NABARD. The financing of rural roads and bridges commenced during RIDF - II and the funds received from RIDF were used to construct new roads, upgrade existing roads to Black Topped roads, strengthen existing Black Topped roads, etc. Under RIDF, so far, 4,307 works for a

length of 10,580.46 kms have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.1,322.37 crores. Out of this, 4,214 works have been completed and the remaining works will be completed shortly.

During 2011-12, NABARD has sanctioned under tranche XVII 333 road works for a length of 902.07 kms at an estimated cost of Rs.143.67 crores. The works have been tendered and all the works are under progress.

Considering the better performance, NABARD has sanctioned an Additional amount of Rs.315.00 crores under NABARD XVII tranche, for improving 637 Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads for a length of 1,729.28 kms Tenders will be invited shortly for these works. For 2012-13, the department has already represented to NABARD for allocation of adequate funds towards improvement and strengthening of Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads.

5.3. 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 Panchayat and Panchayat union roads for a length of 1,778.48 km at an estimated cost of Rs. 143.00 Crores. Tenders have been finalized and all the works under progress.

Further, for the year 2012 – 2013, an amount of Rs.151.00 crores will be allocated for maintenance of Panchayat and Panchayat Union roads.

5.4. Laying of BT Roads with Plastic Waste

The Government, among other initiatives, had announced in the Budget 2011-12, "laying roads with plastic waste & eliminate plastic waste from villages". The concept of laying BT roads mixed with plastic waste is not entirely new to the Rural Development Department. During 2004-05, Plastic waste mixed bituminous roads were laid

in 29 districts for a length of 1,031.39 Km at a cost of 47.29 crores.

Presently, this department has taken up 45 road works for a total length of 110.21 Kms with a total estimate cost of Rs.9 crores in all 31 districts. Besides, the department has taken up 37 road works additionally for a length of 83.630 Kms at a cost of Rs.7.28 crores within the allocation made under 13th Finance Commission Grant mentioned above for laying plastic roads.

The department will establish 10 collection and processing centres in the state to process the plastic waste at a total cost of Rs.80.00 lakhs. These centers will be run by the Panchayat Level Federations and the processed plastic required for laying roads will be sourced from these centers. With the above effort, around 177 MT of plastic waste is expected to be eliminated.

New initiatives

- This Government has brought about desired changes in the type designs of various buildings constructed by this

department in consultation with the end users and new standard type designs have been put into use.

- In order to improve quality in the execution of various scheme works, the quality control labs at the districts have been strengthened by purchasing new quality control equipments where ever required.
- This department has made necessary arrangements for all the procuring entities to provide for e-submission of bids for all tenders exceeding Rs.10.00 lakhs in value. The department will shortly switchover to electronic mode of submission of tenders.
- To ensure effective monitoring, this Government has developed a software operated through smart phones with Global Positioning System (GPS) with facility to upload the photographs of the works during the field inspection to enable expeditious feed back. Smart Phone Monitoring will be put in function shortly after completing software testing and field trials.

6. STAFF WELFARE MEASURES:

- In order to streamline the functioning of the District administration and to ensure timely promotions for the cutting edge staff of the Government machinery, the Government proposes to continue with organizing mandatory training in more than one institution. Four institutions, (1) Police Training College, Trichy, (2) Police Training College, Vellore, (3) Police Training College, Coimbatore (4) Police Training College, Thoothukudi will provide Foundation training in addition to the CSTI, Bhavanisagar for all the newly recruited staff in various levels, Junior Assistants/ Rural Welfare Officers/ etc.,
- Further, the Government proposes to introduce a special software for keeping track of the different stages of court cases in all the 31 districts in as much as establishment matters are concerned at the Directorate.

- It is also proposed to bring out an establishment list for all the Officers in the cadre of Assistant Director and above at the State level and other cadres at the district level.
- With the assistance of National Informatics Centre, an online monitoring system to keep track of all the benefits / dues including leave availed by the staff members and Officers of the Directorate of Rural Development is proposed for implementation in 2012-13.
- Taking into account the long pending needs of the Panchayat Secretaries at the Village level, it is proposed to bring out Special Service Rules for the Panchayat Secretaries.
- Under Part II Schemes, it is proposed to provide Computer Systems and accessories at a cost of Rs.4.75 lakhs to the Officers and staff of the Secretariat in Rural Development Department. Further the main server catering to more than 25 systems in the Rural Development Secretariat is proposed to

be replaced with the latest version to improve the efficacy of the client systems.

- Further to improve functioning of the developmental administration in the districts, residential quarters are proposed to be provided to Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies of Sivagangai, Tiruppur, The Nilgiris and Virudhunagar Districts during 2012-13, at a cost of Rs.169 lakhs. With this, all the districts will be provided with quarters for Project Director, District Rural Development Agency excepting Tiruchirapalli District. Proposals for Tiruchirapalli District is to be initiated separately in the current year after getting required land from Tiruchirapalli Corporation.
- The officials of RD&PR Department from the Districts are regularly attending the review meetings at the State Head Quarters every month. They are facing hardships with respect to accommodation in Chennai on these

days. Similarly, the Department is facing difficulties to provide accommodation to the senior officials of Government of India during their regular visits/reviews/inspections to Tamil Nadu.

- For the benefit of the officers who come to Chennai on official purposes and to attend state level reviews and for the benefit of the officials from Government of India, a Guest House will be constructed at Nerkundram, Chennai in the land belonging to RD&PR Department.
- For the benefit of the officers in the cadre of Additional Directors, Joint Directors and Assistant Directors working in the Directorate of Rural Development and the RD&PR officials who are working in various Departments on deputation, Residential Quarters will be constructed at Nerkundram, Chennai in the land belonging to RD&PR Department.
- The concept of “**Group Deputy Block Development Officers**” is sought to be introduced in all the Panchayat Unions to

look after all the activities in the Block limited to specific areas (Group of contiguous Village Panchayats) as “Group”. In every Panchayat Union, there are a minimum of 5 Deputy Block Development Officers, looking after different functional activities viz., Panchayat Administration, Audit, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Small Savings & Public Relations, MGNREGS, Housing and Sanitation etc., in addition to one Deputy Block Development Officer for administration. In order to improve the efficacy of functioning within the Block and improve delivery of services to the people, it is proposed to introduce the concept of **Group Deputy Block Development Officers** with all the different functions to be looked after by these Group Deputy Block Development Officers in a limited geographical area. That is to say, each Deputy Block Development Officer will look after all the functions within his limited jurisdiction of group of Village Panchayats.

7. CAPACITY BUILDING

7.1. Regional Institute of Rural Development

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department of Government of Tamil Nadu imparts trainings continuously to the elected representatives of 3 tier Panchayats and to all the officials of this Department working at various levels, so that they can perform their duties and responsibilities in an effective manner. Two types of Training Institutions are available in this department to impart the trainings.

The State Institute of Rural Development and the Regional Institutes of Rural Development are the Training Institutions of this Department. Imparting training on many subjects, including, Panchayat Administration, Capacity Building, Accounting, Audit, Establishment, New Technologies, Computer usage, Central and State Government Development Schemes, Managerial skills, Leadership, Self Help Group Development, non-Conventional Energy, Environment

protection, Rural Sanitation, Exposure Visit, etc.

The 5 Regional Institutes of Rural Development are the Regional level organizations engaged in the training activities for the Officials like Village Panchayat Secretaries, Rural Welfare Officers, Junior Assistants, Assistants, Deputy Block Development Officers, Overseers, Road Inspectors, Self Help Group members and Sectoral Department officials. These regional institutes are located at i) Sathya Vijaya Nagaram in Tiruvannamalai District, ii) Krishnagiri Dam in Krishnagiri District, iii) Bhavanisagar in Erode District, iv) Pattukkottai in Thanjavur District and v) T.Kallupatti in Madurai District. Each Regional Institute of Rural Development have their own jurisdictional districts for the purpose of training.

Establishment

In Regional Institutes of Rural Development, Principals in the grade of Additional Director/Joint Director heads the

Administration. The faculties in the grade of Assistant Directors are posted from Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and sectoral Department. Farm supervisors, workshop assistants and Ministerial staff also form the establishment wing of these Institutions. Training programmes are conducted throughout the year in these RIRDs.

Training

10 types of Regular Training, 5 types of Computer Training are conducted regularly in the Regional Institutes of Rural Development. Apart from this, trainings for Self Help Groups, training on Indira Awaaz Yojana, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana are also conducted. Whenever new schemes are announced by Government, special trainings are conducted on such schemes from the funds allotted for the purpose. The Regional Institutes of Rural Development also function as an outsourcing centre for the Sectoral Departments in conducting training.

Fund

The State Government allocates necessary funds for the salary and non-salary expenditure to Regional Institutes of Rural Development in the State Budget every year. Apart from this, each RIRD receives a sum of Rs.10.00 lakhs from Central Government as Recurring Grant for meeting the training related expenditures. The National Institute of Rural Development also provides 100% grant of central assistance for the non-recurring expenditure items like creation of infrastructure facilities proposed by RIRDs.

7.2.State Institute of Rural Development

State Institute of Rural Development, the apex institution for organizing training programmes to the elected representatives of PRIs, Officials and functionaries of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department was established in the year 1961. SIRD was registered as a Society, under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. SIRD started functioning in its own campus at Maraimalainagar since 1991.

7.2.1. Vision of SIRD

The vision of SIRD is to concentrate on development of human resources to upgrade the skill, knowledge and capability of the elected representatives, officers and functionaries and other stakeholders of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department , thus enabling better management and implementation of the policies and programmes of the Government that benefit the poor.

7.2.2. Management and Administration:

To plan, manage, implement and oversee the activities of SIRD, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Tamil Nadu has put in place a) Governing Body and b) Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. The Executive Committee meets once in six months and the Governing Body meets once in a year. The Director, SIRD, in the cadre of Additional

Director of the Department is the Member Secretary looking after administration of the Institute.

7.2.3. Faculty of SIRD

The Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned faculty positions for SIRD on deputation from the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Local Fund Audit, Agriculture and through direct recruitment. Further, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India have permitted SIRD to engage 5 Core Faculties on contract basis as resource persons.

7.2.4. Resources for Training

SIRD receives financial support for conducting training programmes from various sources as detailed below :

- **MoRD:** To organise training programmes on implementation of MGNREGS, IAY, SGSY/NRLM, Lab to Land Initiatives the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India provides 100% financial assistance.

- **MoPR:** i) To organize capacity building and training of PRI representatives, Officials and functionaries, the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India provides 100% financial assistance under BRGF Capacity Building components, which is being implemented in six Districts out of 31 Districts in Tamil Nadu, namely
 - Villupuram,
 - Tiruvannamalai,
 - Cuddalore,
 - Dindigul,
 - Nagapattinam and
 - Sivagangai.
- ii) In respect of the balance 25 Districts, the Ministry of Panchayat Raj provides 75% of the training cost and the balance 25% is being provided by Government of Tamil Nadu for organising the training programmes under RGSY.

- **NIRD:** The National Institute of Rural Development at Hyderabad provides 100% financial assistance for conducting training programmes on the following topics:
 - Integrated Watershed Development Programmes,
 - Managerial Skills for officers and functionaries,
 - GIS application for RD & PR programmes,
 - Advance training in Computer applications,
 - Courses on MGNREGS.
 - Courses on PMGSY / IAY.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India provides funds for conducting training programmes under MPLADS.
- Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India provides financial assistance for organizing field

attachment programmes to the officials in the cadre of Under Secretaries of the Central Government Departments.

7.2.5. Administrative expenses:

SIRD receives grants-in-aid for administrative expenses as follows;

Salary Grant

- To meet the salary and other allowances of the faculty members and administrative staff of the SIRD, Government of India and the State Government are sharing the expenditure on 50:50 basis.
- To meet the salary of five core faculty members engaged on annual contract basis by SIRD, 100% financial assistance is being provided by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

Non-Salary Grant

- Government of Tamil Nadu provides non-salary grant to SIRD to meet the office expenses every year.

Grant for augmentation of Infrastructure

- 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 equipments.

7.2.6. Clientele

The clientele of SIRD includes;

1. Elected Representatives:

- Chairperson of District Panchayats
- District Panchayat Ward Members
- Chairperson of Panchayat Unions
- Panchayat Union Ward Members
- Village Panchayat Presidents

2. Officers & other functionaries:

- Joint Directors
- Assistant Directors
- Block Development Officers

- Executive Engineers
- Assistant Executive Engineers
- Assistant Engineers
- Members of SHGs / PLFs,
- Bankers, NGOs and others.

7.2.7. Training Methodology

The SIRD follows the participatory training methodology of 'lecture cum discussion method'. The training methodology would also include games, role plays, energizers, panel discussion, exposure visits, chart preparation and so on. The sessions are covered by subject experts from SIRD, Officials of State Government departments, faculty members from academic institutions, Best Panchayat Presidents and others. The institute encourages open discussions among the participants.

7.2.8. Conduct of Training Programmes

The State Institute of Rural Development conducts residential training programmes in its campus at Maraimalai Nagar and Off-campus

programmes at District, Block and Village Panchayat levels.

7.2.9. Resource persons

In order to ensure coverage of large number of participants and conduct quality training programmes, SIRD engages Resource Persons as follows from the eminent organizations, apart from its own faculty.

- National Informatics Centre, Chennai
- National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad
- Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai
- Anna Institute of Management, Chennai
- SRM University, Chennai
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kattupakkam, Chennai
- Live stock Research Center, Potheri, Chennai
- Madras University, Chennai
- Institute of Public Health, Poonamalee, Chennai

- Department of Agricultural Engineering, Chennai
- Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai
- C.P Ramasamy Research Foundation, Chennai
- Officers from the Sectoral Departments
- Officers from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj
- National and State Quality monitors.

SIRD also utilises the services of best Village Panchayat Presidents, NGOs, serving and retired officials of the department for training programmes as resource persons.

7.2.10. Infrastructure

SIRD has adequate infrastructure for conducting training programmes effectively such as air-conditioned Conference Halls, Library with reading room, Computer Lab with 25 computers with Internet facility, Hostel to accommodate 130 participants with boarding facility, automatic genset (125 KVA) and all the

audio visual equipments for conducting training programmes.

7.2.11. Programmes of 2011-12

SIRD had conducted 408 programmes covering 22,322 of participants during 2011-12. For the use of training participants, SIRD has prepared 5 Hand Books. All the participants of the training programmes on Panchayat Raj will be given these books under the following titles:

<p>Hand Book – I Panchayat Raj Administration</p>	<p>The Book on Panchayat Raj Administration is prepared in simple and understandable language with illustrations, pictures. The powers and functions of Village Panchayats, duties and responsibilities of Village Panchayat Presidents, procedures for conducting meetings, details of various resources of Village Panchayat, procedures for maintenance of account etc., have been explained. The Handbook will facilitate the Village Panchayat Presidents to discharge their functions in an efficient manner.</p>
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Hand Book – II Rural Development Schemes	This Book contains information on various schemes of the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department. The objectives of the schemes, funding pattern, criteria for selection of beneficiaries or works etc ., are provided in the book . This will enable the Panchayats to play an effective role in the implementation of the schemes.
Hand Book – III Information to Panchayats for Human Development	It contains information on mother & child care issues including family welfare measures, nutrition, child care and rights, details regarding awareness and preventive measures of non-communicable diseases. This is the first time such information are provided to the elected representatives of PRIs.
Hand Book – IV General Information for the development of Panchayats	The Book contains general information about the role of Panchayats in Primary education, rainwater harvestings, solid waste management, promotion of clean environment and sanitation, mitigation and management of disasters etc.
Hand Book – V Compendium of GOs / Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994 / Rules	It contains a copy of relevant portion of Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994 / Rules issued thereon, Government Orders and executive instructions on Panchayat Raj administration and on implementation of schemes of the RD&PR department.

7.2.12. Strengthening of facilities at SIRD

To augment the infrastructure facilities of SIRD, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India sanctioned a sum of Rs. 23.75 crores as 100% grant for the following item of works:

(Rs.in Lakhs)

S.No	Item of Work	Amount
1	Campus Road (707 meters)	34.50
2	Compound Wall (640 meters)	30.50
3	Hostel Building (G+2) 45,200 sq.ft GF: 14 Rooms + Kitchen, Dining Hall, Reception and lift . FF: 14 Rooms + Yoga,Gym,Computer & Recreation Hall SF: 14 rooms	1,436.13
4	Multifunctional Hall with 600 seating capacity, Kitchen, Dining hall (38,489 sq.ft) – with flexibility for arranging partitions as per the need	814.31
5	UPS (10KVA – 2 Nos + 5 KVA 1 No)	7.00
6	Computers : (Multimedia projectors + 30 Computers and accessories)	22.50
7	A.C for existing hostel (67 No.)	30.30
	Total	2,375.24

7.2.13. Programmes for 2012-2013

SIRD has proposed to conduct training programmes on various subjects for the Panchayat Raj representatives and officers/functionaries on the following areas.

- Panchayat Raj administration
- Panchayat Accounts and Audit
- Establishment matters
- Computers application
- Implementation of Centrally sponsored Schemes
- State funded schemes
- Disaster management programmes;
- Technical matters
- Right to Information Act 2005
- Decentralized Planning

During 2012-13, thrust will be given to the following:

- Total Sanitation campaign
- Rain Water Harvesting
- Solid waste management
- Solar Energy
- Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement Scheme (THAI)
- Training for PRIs & Officials under BRGF & RGSY
- Training for Bharat Nirman Volunteers under Lab to Land Initiatives in new blocks
- Decentralized Planning

During the year 2012 – 2013 SIRD has proposed to give training to 1.19 lakh elected representatives of rural Local Bodies in the State at an estimated cost of Rs.10.71 crores.

8. TAMIL NADU CORPORATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

Tamil Nadu was one of the pioneering states to have a Corporation for Development of Women with the objective of overall empowerment of women in the year 1983. The key strategy was social mobilization of women by forming them into Self Help Groups and promotion of savings and thrift. SHG movement in Tamil Nadu started with the IFAD assisted Women's Development Project from the year 1991-92. Over the past 20 years, the SHG movement has spread to the entire length and breadth of the State. Now 85.70 lakh women have been mobilized into 5.56 lakh SHGs under Mahalir Thittam. The SHGs have so far availed a credit of Rs. 15,633.83 crores from various banks and have a total savings of more than Rs. 3,374.60 crores.

Details of SHGs

No. of SHGs	5.56 lakhs
No. of SHG Members	85.70 lakhs
No. of Rural SHGs	3.72 lakhs
No. of Members in Rural SHGs	57.37 lakhs
No. of Urban SHGs	1.84 lakhs
No. of Members in Urban SHGs	28.33 lakhs
Total Savings	Rs.3,374.60 crores
No. of SHGs credit linked	4.85 lakhs
Total Amount credit linked	Rs.15,633.83 crores

Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women is implementing two major schemes.

- I. "Mahalir Thittam" a State Government funded scheme.
- II. "Swarnjayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana" (SGSY), a centrally sponsored scheme shared by Government of India and State Government in the ratio of 75: 25 is restructured and launched as "Aajeevika" - National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

8.1 Mahalir Thittam

Activities under Mahalir Thittam

1. New Self Help Group formation
2. Capacity Building of SHG members and Representatives
3. Cultural Competitions
4. Skill training
 - a. Youth Skill Training
 - b. Enterprise Development Training

5. Credit assistance to SHGs
 - a. Revolving fund
 - b. Credit linkage through Banks
6. Strengthening of Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) and Slum Level Federations (SLFs)
 - a. Restructuring and Capacity building of PLFs
 - b. Formation of Slum Level Federations
 - c. One Village Panchayat – One Panchayat Level Federation
 - d. Bulk Loan to PLFs
7. Regulation of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)
8. Marketing of SHG Products
 - a. Exhibitions
 - b. Branding
9. Awards to best performing SHGs, PLFs and Banks

8.1.1. Formation of Self Help Groups

65,000 SHGs were formed during the year 2011-12 focusing on the inclusion of SC and ST, uncovered MGNREGS workers, poor women from left out habitations and urban slums. Special SHGs were also formed with marginalized communities, differently abled and vulnerable sections of the society.

During the year 2012-13, SHGs will be formed in all the 60 intensive blocks of 15 phase- I TNSRLM districts by bringing the left out poor, marginalized and vulnerable into the fold of SHG network identified through the Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) process.

8.1.2. Capacity building of SHG members and Representatives

Many self help groups have become dormant and weak over the years due to various reasons. They have to be revived and strengthened by providing refresher training. In non-NRLM blocks (other than Phase I blocks) all dormant and weak SHGs will be

identified and provided with refresher training in order to function as a cohesive group. Apart from groups formed under "Mahalir Thittam" by affiliated NGOs, groups have been formed by other Government agencies and NGOs not affiliated under Mahalir Thittam. In order to make the PLF formed by Mahalir Thittam as a single point of convergence and networking for all the SHGs in a Panchayat have to be brought under a single umbrella. Now, the non Mahalir Thittam SHGs are not federated under the PLF promoted by Mahalir Thittam. All non-Mahalir Thittam SHGs, will be provided A&R and SHG member training for full integration into Mahalir Thittam and then federated with the PLF. A separate module will be developed by combining A&R and SHG training modules and given as Induction training for these SHGs.

8.1.3. Cultural Competitions to SHGs for enhancing cohesiveness and unity

Cultural Competitions have been organized among SHG members and PLF members at Block and District levels with the objective of strengthening the unity, team

spirit and cohesiveness among the SHG members. These competitions have received excellent response from the SHGs and have been successful in bringing out their latent talent, forge team spirit and co-operation among SHG members. Due to the overwhelming success of the cultural competitions and its usefulness in promoting unity among the SHG members, it is proposed to be continued in 2012-13.

8.1.4. Skill Training for Youth and Women

a. Youth Skill Training

Unemployment among the educated youth presents a paradoxical situation. Large scale unemployment among the educated rural youth is seen on one side and on the other; there is critical shortage of skilled manpower in certain professions and trades in the market. This situation can be reversed through bridging the skill gap among rural youth by offering job oriented skill training.

During 2011-12, the Government has taken concerted efforts for providing quality training by streamlining the Youth Skill

Training programme by standardizing the courses, certifying the institutions and ensuring 80% placement with a minimum salary of Rs.4,000/- per month. It also ensured that special categories of youth from among the differently abled (3%), Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (25%), Transgenders (5%) and minorities (3.5%) benefited from training institutions offering courses approved by National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and Director General of Employment and Training (DGET).

During 2011-12, Skill voucher scheme was piloted for the first time in computer courses, where the choice of the course and institution is decided by the candidates from among the empanelled computer institutions like HCL, CSC and Apollo. 25,000 youth at a cost of Rs.20 crores were provided training in various courses like cell phone assembling, JCB operator, CNC lathe operator, Computer courses etc.

Youth skill training programme will become an important component of the TNSRLM under the skills and placement

component of NRLM. During 2012-13, the skill voucher scheme piloted for computer courses will be expanded to cover more courses and trades based on the approved guidelines of the Skill Development Mission.

b. Enterprise Development Training (EDT)

Enterprise Development Training is given through training institutions specialized in giving self employment training to women who are interested in starting individual or group activity. The training covers all aspects of managing an enterprise like procurement of raw materials, machinery, value addition, packaging, labeling, pricing, certification etc.,

During 2012-13, women will be given enterprise development training under TNSRLM based on specific skills identified depending on the livelihood activity chosen for cluster development.

8.1.5. Credit Assistance to SHGs

a. Revolving Fund to Urban Groups

Every SHG starts with savings, thrift and internal lending among their members as part of their initial activities. After completion of six months of functioning they are rated against pre-defined parameters and those groups which pass the rating will be provided with Revolving fund which will augment their corpus. 13,461 Urban SHGs were provided with revolving fund during the year 2011-12.

During the year 2012-13, 20,000 Urban SHGs will be provided with Revolving fund.

b. Credit Linkage through Banks

Economic empowerment of women is possible only by extending SHGs adequate and timely credit at reasonable interest rates. SHGs after passing the first credit rating become eligible for credit from banks. During the year 2011-12, an ambitious target of Rs. 4,000 crores was set and same was surpassed with an achievement of Rs. 4,030 Crores.

In 2012-13, SHGs will be credit linked through banks to the tune of Rs.4,000 crores.

8.1.6. Strengthening of Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) and Slum Level Federations (SLFs)

a. Restructuring and Capacity Building of PLFs

PLF is a common platform for the SHGs to come together, share their experiences and find effective solutions for their problems. The PLFs are capacitated in the areas of Governance, Financial Management, Social Audit, etc., to make them independent and vibrant community institutions. What SHGs could not achieve individually, PLF can achieve by pooling their resources and collective skills and exploit economies of scale both in production and marketing.

The main objective of the restructuring of PLFs is to make them more inclusive, transparent and participatory and also to improve their governance and sustainability by giving them a legal status by registering them

under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.

Out of 12,524 PLFs, so far 10,494 PLFs have been restructured and registered and incentive provided to 5,850 PLFs. All the remaining 2,030 PLFs will be restructured and registered. During 2012-13, around 3,000 successfully graded PLFs will be provided with an incentive of Rs. 1 lakh each.

b. Formation of Slum Level Federations

SHGs are formed in urban areas focusing on poor women living in urban slums to benefit from the SHG movement. Slum Level Federations are being formed to provide an institutional framework for social and economic empowerment of poor urban women. SLFs are registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 to provide them legal status. So far 399 SLFs have been formed. The SLFs will be renamed as Urban Neighbourhood Federations (UNFs) during 2012-13.

During 2012-13, new SHGs will be formed in notified slums and federated into UNFs in urban areas.

c. One Village Panchayat – One Panchayat Level Federation

In the current system of PLF formation, mostly the SHGs which come under the purview of NGOs recognised by Mahalir Thittam alone get affiliated to PLFs. SHGs under Mahalir Thittam get benefited and PLF remains solely as Mahalir Thittam PLF. But, SHGs promoted by various agencies which are in existence at Panchayat level do not form part of Mahalir Thittam or Pudhu Vaazhvu promoted PLFs. Various schemes and benefits available with different departments can be pooled at Panchayat level as part of convergence if all come under one umbrella. The PLF promoted by Mahalir Thittam can be the single point of convergence and networking of all SHGs in the Panchayat.

Under TNSRLM, One Village Panchayat – One Panchayat Level Federation will be promoted by making all the SHGs in the Village

Panchayat become members of PLF formed under Mahalir Thittam in all 60 Intensive blocks of 15 Phase –I Districts.

d. Bulk Loan to Panchayat Level Federations

PLFs are emerging as nerve centres which support and guide SHGs in multi various activities. Financial intermediation is one of the primary roles envisaged for the PLFs. PLFs have availed bulk loan from banks and are on lending the same to their member SHGs. For this, the PLFs fix a rate of interest not exceeding 15% with the interest spread of 3.5%. Over a period of time, PLFs are likely to evolve into community level financial institutions. So far, 419 PLFs have availed bulk loan to the tune of Rs.100.54 crores through various Banks.

During 2012-13, 400 PLFs will be extended bulk loan.

8.1.7. Regulation of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)

Micro Finance Institution (MFI) is an organization registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and recognized by Reserve Bank of India as Non-Banking Finance Company – Micro Finance Institutions. MFIs provide loan to Joint Liability Groups / Self Help Groups / Individuals at a very high rate of interest ranging from 26% to 50%. In Andhra Pradesh due to coercive methods of recovery followed by MFIs, the Government promulgated an ordinance to curb and regulate MFIs. Consequent to these developments, the Reserve Bank of India appointed Malegam Committee to study the MFIs operations in rural areas. The Malegam Committee submitted its report and the Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines to be followed by MFIs across the Country and sent circular to Banks. The Micro Finance Bill is yet to be tabled in the Parliament and until then the guidelines issued by RBI will be in force.

In the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meetings, the Banks were advised by TNCDW to review their MFI portfolios in the light of the RBI guidelines. The Hon'ble Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has pronounced its judgment and stated that Government may check and regulate the MFIs in Tamil Nadu to protect the SHG movement.

To regulate the MFI operations in Tamil Nadu, the TNCDW immediately advised the District Collectors to have a watch on the MFI operations in their districts and review them during the monthly meeting with bankers and Mahalir Thittam NGOs. Further, it was insisted to conduct awareness campaigns at Panchayat level in order to caution the SHG members and to protect the SHG members from walking into the trap of the MFIs. An appeal letter was also issued by the district administration through a press release to the PLFs so as to create awareness among SHGs. Further the Collectors were instructed to proceed against the erring MFIs under the State Money Lenders Act if MFIs charged exorbitant interest rates over and above 26% fixed by RBI.

8.1.8. Marketing of SHG Products

SHGs have started producing a wide range of products like handicrafts, food products, handlooms and textiles, herbal products, artificial jewellery etc.,. Mahalir Thittam has taken several initiatives to promote the marketing of SHG products by conducting workshops / seminars to the SHGs on various aspects like value addition, packaging, labeling, branding, etc to make the products stand out and create a special niche in the market.

A Regional workshop was organized in partnership with Madurai District Small Scale and Tiny Industries Association (MADISSTIA) for 500 SHG representatives from 10 districts at Madurai. This was a first of a kind experience for SHGs for understanding the nuances of managing enterprises and marketing of finished products. 'College Bazaars' were organised on pilot basis in college campuses for popularizing and promoting SHG products among youth.

a. Branding

Marketing of SHG products is a biggest challenge as the customers are becoming brand conscious. Quality of the product is linked to the brand name and its attractive packaging. Efforts will be taken by the Government to standardize the various products of SHGs and get required certification from government approved agencies. A Brand name with logo and monogram will be launched during this year to provide unique identity to compete in the open market. During 2012-13, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will be developed for standardizing production processes of five commonly produced SHG products in the State which has good market potential.

b. Exhibitions

Exhibitions have proved as the most effective way to market SHG products. To introduce and promote SHG products in the market District and State level exhibitions have been organised. SHGs have participated in India International Trade Fair in Delhi and

Regional SARAS exhibitions organised by Ministry of Rural Development.

'Mahalir Mela 2012' - Exhibition was organized in Annai Theresa Women Complex, Nungambakkam, Chennai on the eve of New Year and Pongal for 30 days and received an overwhelming support with a total sales of Rs 28 lakhs. During 2011-12, 79 exhibitions were conducted across the State and the SHG products were sold for Rs. 5.63 Crores.

During 2012-13, State level and Regional level exhibitions will be organized to promote SHG products in a big way in the new brand name. Special thematic exhibitions will be organized around specific occasions and festivals to enhance opportunities for SHGs to expand their market.

District Supply and Marketing Societies will be revamped with professional and technical team and networked with State Level Marketing Society to provide handholding support to SHGs in taking up production and marketing of products. A Web portal "Mathi Bazaar" will be established for promoting

online marketing and creating export opportunities for SHG products.

8.1.9. Awards to best performing SHGs, PLFs and Banks

Government of Tamil Nadu in recognition of the performance of SHGs and PLFs has instituted awards at the State, District and Block levels. The Awards have not only motivated the SHGs and PLFs for improving their performance, but also created a healthy competition among them. Every year awards are presented to five best PLFs at the rate of Rs.3 lakhs each and 10 best SHGs at the rate of Rs. 1 lakh each at State Level. One best PLF and three best SHGs at the District level are given awards with a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 25,000/- for each SHG respectively. One best SHG at the Block level is given a certificate.

Banks are an important ally in economic empowerment of SHGs. Banks showing outstanding performance in extending credit to the SHGs and PLFs are awarded at state and district level. At state level, three best

performing banks and five bank branches are given award. At district level, one bank and three bank branches will get the award. At the state level best performing banks will be given memento and commendation certificates and the best performing branches will get cash award as Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 75,000/- and Rs.50,000/- as first, second and third prizes respectively with commendation certificates. At the district level the best bank will get memento and commendation certificate. Best bank branches will be given cash award of Rs.15,000/-, Rs.10,000/- and Rs.5,000/- as first, second and third prizes respectively. These awards will encourage banks and branch managers to extend adequate and timely credit to the SHGs.

8.2. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

SGSY, a centrally sponsored scheme for poverty alleviation has been implemented through the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) since 1999 with a funding pattern of 75:25 from Government of India and

State Government. SGSY was transferred to the TNCDW in the year 2008. The prime objective of the scheme is promoting of SHGs from Micro Credit stage to Micro Entrepreneur stage. Major components of the scheme are

- 1) Revolving Fund
- 2) Economic Assistance
- 3) Training
- 4) Infrastructure facilities

During the year 2011-12, a target of 22,214 SHGs for Revolving Fund was fixed by the Government of India and was achieved in full. Economic Assistance to 7,464 eligible SHGs and Training to 22,214 SHG members in skill promotion to take up Economic Activity is under progress.

SGSY is restructured and will be implemented from the year 2012-13 as "Aajeevika" – Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM).

8.2.1. Aajeevika – Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission

Government of India has launched many programs for poverty mitigation over the years, which target the poor families by providing assets, create livelihoods opportunities and self-employment. SGSY was conceived with the objective of reaching poor families through women self help groups. The elimination of poverty is a huge task and is unfinished. In this context, the Government of India has restructured the SGSY as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) which is being implemented in a mission mode across the country.

Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM) implementation plan is designed based on the broad guidelines and framework provided under NRLM. The vision and objectives of TNSRLM will reflect state specific issues and the unaddressed needs of the poor in the State.

i) Mission, Guiding Principles and Core Values

a) Mission

The mission of TNSRLM is “to bring the poorest of poor and unreached families into the SHG network, establishing and strengthening the self managed institutions of the poor by enhancing their capacity and thereby promote livelihoods with incremental income at the household level through sustainable Community Based Organizations.”

b) Guiding Principles

The following are the guiding principles of TNSRLM.

- Poor have inherent capabilities and strong will to come out of poverty.
- Strengthening of the Institutions of the poor and universal social mobilization will help the poor to unleash their potential to come out of poverty.

- Facilitating knowledge dissemination, capacity building, skill up-gradation, access to credit, and creation of forward and backward linkages for the livelihood enhancement of the poor.
- Economic empowerment of women will have positive and direct effect on the households and the society as a whole.

c) Core Values

The following core values shall guide the activities

- Targeting the poorest of the poor / ultra poor with special emphasis on the SC and the ST households, differently abled persons, the aged, the vulnerable, the marginalized and the destitute.
- Having ownership of the project by the poor, involving poor in planning, implementation, monitoring and management.

- Ensuring transparency and accountability of Institutions of the poor.
- Ensuring self-reliant and self sustainable people's institutions.

ii) Objectives

TNSRLM envisages creation of sustainable livelihoods of the rural poor living below the poverty line within a period of 5 to 7 years in the 31 rural districts of Tamil Nadu. The objective of the Mission is to **“build strong and vibrant institutional platforms of the rural poor that enable them to increase household incomes through livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial and other services”**. The focus of the Mission will also include leveraging financial resources, livelihood support, public services and to ensure their entitlements.

With rich experience in SHG movement and building of grass roots institutions of the poor by TNCDW under the Mahalir Thittam and

World Bank assisted “Pudhu Vaazhvu” Project, transformation from SGSY to NRLM (TNSRLM) will not be a big challenge in Tamil Nadu. NRLM will be helpful in strengthening the institutions of the poor already in existence and also create and nurture new institutions formed for specific purposes like producer groups, common livelihood groups, federations, etc., TNSRLM will identify gaps and bridge them through convergence and partnership with government departments and other organizations.

iii) Key Results

The key results expected of the TNSRLM are:

- Establishment of a sensitive and effective autonomous implementation structure to facilitate strengthening of the rural institutional platform up to grass root level.
- Inclusion of all the eligible poor in the community based pro-poor village institution.

- Augmenting the corpus of the Institutions of the rural poor to leverage bank credit at affordable rate of interest.
- Pooling of funds and convergence of other services through dovetailing of schemes for the development of the poor.
- Investment by the poor in productive assets and incremental income in various livelihood activities.
- Enhancing skills of youth for gainful self employment / wage employment.

iv) Programme Strategies

The following are the key programme strategies:

- i. Social Inclusion and universal social mobilization.
- ii. Building Institutional platform of the poor.
- iii. Financial Inclusion

- iv. Economic Inclusion – Building sustainable livelihoods for the poor.
- v. Skill and Placement
- vi. Last Mile Service Delivery (Through community professionals and Social Entrepreneurs).
- vii. Leveraging resources through dovetailing and convergence with all schemes of Government.

v) Project Area and Scope

Out of the 32 Districts in Tamil Nadu, TNSRLM will be implemented in all Districts except Chennai. In addition to NRLM funds, intensive investments will be made as part of the World Bank supported NRLP in 4 districts. Even among these 4 Districts, the intensive livelihood investments will be restricted to 16 blocks to provide the *'proof of concept'* for the rest of the State to adopt similar approaches to poverty alleviation in terms of staff structures, community investment support and other support to the poor. The NRLP intensive districts are selected from

among the uncovered districts under the World Bank supported Tamil Nadu Pudhu Vaazhvu Project (TNPVP). In Tamil Nadu, out of the total of 385 blocks, 120 blocks have been covered under the Pudhu Vaazhvu Project. The remaining 265 blocks will be covered under TNSRLM in a phased manner over a period of three years.

The Intensive blocks under TNSRLM are ranked by the number of BPL families within the district and the districts are selected taking into account the following criteria, namely,

- Percentage of Agricultural Labourers to total main workers
- Rural female literacy rate.
- Industrial backwardness.
- Infant Mortality rate
- Number of BPL families
- Percentage of SC and ST population.

vi) Project Area for Phase – I

- During the year 2012-13, the project will be implemented in 15 districts covering 60 blocks, which includes 16 blocks from 4 districts under NRLP and remaining under NRLM. Maps showing the phase wise blocks and districts is enclosed in Annexure.
- The total number of Village Panchayats to be covered is 2,323.

Project Areas – Phase – I (2012-13)

Project	No. of Districts	No. of Blocks	No. of Village Panchayats	Year of Commencement
NRLM	11	44	1865	2012-13
NRLP	4	16	458	
Total	15	60	2323	

In phase-I, it is proposed to take up one block in Perambalur, two blocks each in Ariyalur and Dharmapuri districts, four blocks each in Dindigul, Erode, Nilgiris, Ramanthapuram, Thiruvavarur, Thanjavur and

Tiruchirappalli districts, five blocks each in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Thiruvannamalai districts, six blocks each in Vellore and Villupuram districts for the intensive implementation of TNSRLM.

vii) Activities proposed under TNSRLM in 2012-13

TNSRLM was established and made functional at the state level and housed in the TNCDW. The major activities proposed are as follows:

- Fully functional State Mission Management Unit (SMMU).
- Hiring of Human Resource Agency, staff recruitment and induction training.
- Hiring of various agencies for baseline survey, process monitoring, differently abled facilitating agency, software development agency and auditors.
- Establishment of technical cells for Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Management Information System (MIS) and Skill and Placements.

- Establishment of District Mission Management Unit (DMMU) and Block Mission Management Unit (BMMU).
- Setting up of State Supply and Marketing Society (SSMS).
- Assessment / studies on specific themes - Gender / Empowerment / Differently abled / Tribals
- Evaluation / Impact assessment of PVP pilots on poverty & Empowerment.

a) Activities in Intensive blocks

The following Activities will be taken up in 60 intensive blocks in 15 phase – I districts:

- Information Education and Communication activities at various levels.
- Orientation to line departments and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- Conducting Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) process for identifying target poor.

- Formation of Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRC) and Social Audit Committees (SAC).
- Preparation of Village Development Plan (VDP).
- Release of Community Investment Support to VPRC.
- Formation of Self Help Groups.
- Restructuring Panchayat Level Federations (PLF).
- Release of Community Investment Fund to PLFs.
- Establishing Village/ Block and District level convergence forums.
- MIS – Review and monitoring system at Block level.
- Mapping of skills and Education status.
- Business correspondents.

b) Activities in Non- Intensive Blocks

As per the guidelines of National Mission Management Unit (NMMU), it is proposed to implement the NRLM activities under non-intensive mode in 205 Blocks during 2012-13

and 105 Blocks during 2013-14. 100 Village Panchayats from blocks proposed to take up as intensive blocks in 2013-14 will be selected as pilot resource Village Panchayats at the rate of one per block.

In these pilot resource villages, the following activities will be taken up: -

- o Development of social capital (CPs / CRPs)
- o Social mobilization
- o Conducting base line studies
- o Conducting Participatory identification of Poor
- o Formation of VPRC
- o Mapping of skills and Education status

c) Activities proposed in both Intensive and Non- Intensive blocks in all Districts

1. Skill and placement

- o Assessment/ survey of job market

- o Job melas
- o District Resource centre for Youth Skill training
- o Entrepreneurship Development Trainings
- o Job oriented Youth Skill training

2. Convergence and networking

- o Inter department planning workshops at block level
- o Block and District level convergence committee

3. Livelihoods cluster

- o Creation of CLGs at Village / Cluster level @ 5 per District
- o 'One Village - One product' promotion
- o Partnership with Small Industry association
- o Innovation forum
- o Internship for students on Promotion of SHG products

4. Financial Inclusion

- Bank Mitras
- Financial literacy to all poor households
- Pension and insurance schemes for poor

5. Marketing

- Standardisation and Value addition
- Branding of SHG products
- Inter District and Intra District marketing among SHGs
- MOU with private sector and SSI associations
- Marketing support through fairs and Exhibitions at State and Regional level
- Buyer – Seller meets (State & regional level)

6. Awards

- Awards to best PLFs and SHGs
- Awards to Bankers

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

- MIS cell
- Research and Analysis wing

8. Communication & Documentation cell

- Development of Communication Materials
- Printing and distribution of Manuals & Materials
- Documentation and dissemination

viii) Budget and Component wise Outlays

The Budget Estimates for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 31118.98 lakhs for both NRLM and NRLP and component wise outlay is as follows: -

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Component	Description	Amount
1	A	Institutional and Human Capacity Development	75.00
2	B	State Livelihoods Support	25396.17
3	C	Innovation and Partnership	1360.00
4	D	Project Implementation support	399.30
5	E	Skills and Placement	3888.51
		Total	31118.98

ix) Source of Funding

The source of funding is as follows.

(Rs. Lakhs)

S. No	Description	GOI	GOTN	Total
1	National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)	19044.01	6348.01	25392.02
2	National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP)	5726.96	0	5726.96
	Total	24770.97	6348.01	31118.98

8.3 New Initiatives to be taken up during 2012-13

8.3.1 One Village – One Product

SHGs engaged in same type of activities in a particular village will be networked with each other and provided with backward and forward linkages to realize the economies of scale and business opportunity to have expanded market and potential for exports. Clusters of similar groups within the village and across villages will be identified and promoted under 'one village-one product' concept to provide sustainable employment opportunities to non agricultural labourers and artisans.

During 2012-13, based on one village-one product concept, 5 clusters will be promoted in each district. A total of 150 clusters will be developed in the state.

8.3.2 'College Bazaar' for promotion and popularization of SHG products

College Bazaar will be organized in colleges in different districts across Tamil Nadu in order to popularize the SHG products among the college students and youth. Through this activity students of management courses will be identified to support SHGs in improving production capacity, business opportunities, product diversification, improving the process of production, value addition, packaging, pricing and marketing.

100 'College Bazaars' will be organized during 2012-13 for promoting and popularizing SHG Products with a minimum of three per district.

8.3.3. Individual Identity Cards to Women SHG members

Identity cards are now being issued to women Self help groups and not to individual members. Women SHG members

face lot of hardship when they go to public offices and institutions without a proper identity card. Each woman SHG member will gain confidence and respect when they have an identity card.

Individual ID cards will be issued to SHG members in 60 Blocks of 15 TNSRLM Phase –I districts during the financial year 2012-13.

8.3.4. Creation of State marketing society for Promotion and Marketing of SHG products

Currently District Supply and Marketing Societies are alone functioning for marketing of SHG products. State level Supply and Marketing Society have not been established so far. In this financial year State Supply and Marketing Society will be established and linked with Districts Supply and Marketing Societies for effective promotion of SHG products at the State, National and International level.

8.3.5. “Mathi Bazaar” - New Website for online marketing of SHG products

‘Rural Bazaar’, website for online marketing of SHG products created in the year 2004 became defunct. Now it will be revived, revamped and renamed as “Mathi Bazaar” for marketing of SHG products with product specific database searches, district/price specific search, business trade leads with buying & selling options and opportunities to all District Supply and Marketing Societies to interact with buyers. In this website facilities like payment gateway and Value Payable Post will also be made available.

8.3.6. Awards to SHGs at the forefront in fight against social evils

Women SHGs have been in the forefront in the fight against social evils and atrocities against women. An award exclusively for SHG women for collective action against social evils and violence against women will go a long way in encouraging them to take up social issues

affecting women. An award will be instituted this year for the first time.

8.3.7 Pension cum Insurance Scheme for SHGs

The State Government will launch Insurance cum Pension scheme for the benefit of poor women SHG members. Along with the pension, it is also proposed to provide comprehensive insurance coverage of life and asset of women SHG members. This scheme will be piloted in 60 blocks of 15 TNSRLM Phase I districts in the first year and expanded throughout the state in phases.

8.3.8. A study report on 20 years of SHG movement in Tamil Nadu

SHG movement has crossed a major milestone of 20 years. TNCDW will study the impact of SHG movement on various aspects of women empowerment like social empowerment, economic empowerment and political empowerment. The study report with interesting case studies will be compiled into a

book "Impact of SHG Movement on Rural Women" will be released in commemoration of the 20 years of SHG movement in Tamil Nadu.

8.3.9 Awards to PLFs with 100% literacy

Literacy is still a defining factor in the socio-economic empowerment of women. Even today poor women in rural areas are not able to read, write or count numbers. A collective group effort by SHG women who have educated members among them to teach other illiterate members should be recognized and rewarded. From this financial year onwards an award will be instituted and given to Panchayat Level Federations which ensures all its individual SHG members becoming literates.

8.4. Major activities proposed for 2012-13

1. Aajeevika – TNSRLM will be launched from 2012-13 as a Community Demand Driven programme for alleviation of rural poverty in 60 blocks across 15 districts in the first phase.

2. Based on one village-one product concept, 5 clusters will be promoted in each district.
3. 100 'College Bazaars' will be organized for promoting and popularizing SHG products.
4. Individual ID cards will be issued to SHG members in 60 Blocks of 15 phase I districts of TNSRLM.
5. State Supply and Marketing Society will be established and linked with District Supply and Marketing Societies for effective promotion of SHG products at the State, National and International level.
6. Unique brand identity with logo and monogram will be launched for SHG products.
7. "Mathi Bazaar" a new website will be launched to support online marketing and create export opportunities for SHG products.
8. New Award to SHGs at the forefront in fight against social evils will be instituted.

9. Pension cum Insurance Scheme will be piloted in 60 intensive blocks of 15 phase I TNSRLM districts.
10. A study report regarding "Impact of SHG Movement on Rural Women" in commemoration of the 20 years of SHG movement in Tamil Nadu will be released.
11. Skill voucher scheme under Youth Skill Training Programme will be extended to other prospective training courses.
12. A new award will be given to the Panchayat Level Federations which ensures all the SHG members of their Federation becoming literates.

9. PUDHU VAAZHVU PROJECT

9.1 About the project

Pudhu Vaazhvu Project is a pioneering effort of Government of Tamil Nadu in its endeavor to eradicate poverty and initiate an all - inclusive development process. Assisted by World Bank, the Pudhu Vaazhvu Project (PVP),

following the Community Driven Development (CDD) approach has catapulted the poor and underprivileged into the mainstream development process as well as made them decide, participate, implement and monitor their progress and development. The project, adopts participatory methodologies and transparent resource distribution at local level, through better targeting of the poor for addressing the twin challenges of enhancing livelihoods and empowerment of the poor.

The Project has developed strong Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) which are effective and responsive and play a pivotal role in building the capacities and skills of the poor, facilitate and promote sustainable livelihoods with transparent governance and social accountability.

9.2 Project area and coverage

Initially Pudhu Vaazhvu project was launched in November 2005 covering 2509 Village Panchayats in 70 backward Blocks of 16 districts encompassing 5.8 lakh households, with an outlay of Rs.717 crores. During

2011-12 this Project was extended to 1661 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 will now cover 9.8 lakh households within the project period ending September 2014.

9.3 Core objectives

The objectives of Pudhu Vaazhvu are socio economic empowerment and upliftment of the very poor including vulnerable by improving the standard of life through strong and responsive grass root level community based organizations. The project aims to build the capacities of the poor and fund sustainable livelihood activities. The project employs the Community Driven Development approach, adopting the key non negotiable principles across all stakeholders of the project with well-built mechanisms for social accountability and transparency.

9.4 Project strategy

The project adopts the Community Driven Development approach and strives to empower the poor after assessing their needs, through targeted interventions for improving the 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.

To achieve its twin objectives of livelihood and empowerment, the project would follow two different strategies in its project areas.

- The first strategy will focus on strengthening and consolidating the efforts and investments made for socio economic development of target communities in the existing 16 project districts. The key activities will revolve around the sustenance of the grass root level Community based Organizations and at the same time take up vertical expansion of Project activities. The focus

will remain on making significant impact on sustainable livelihoods of the target community.

- The second strategy will apply to 10 new Project districts under additional financing and concentrate on similar strategies that were adopted in the existing Project districts for reaching out and mainstreaming of the poor and vulnerable in terms of social mobilization and empowerment. All the processes would be replicated with strict adherence to the non negotiable principles and good Governance practices.

9.5 Institutional structure

i) State level

The project is governed by the Tamil Nadu Pudhu Vaazhvu Society, the apex body chaired by the Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

There is a State Project Management Unit (SPMU) headed by the Project Director,

ably assisted by a multi disciplinary team of Specialists at different levels. The State Unit has additional posts created to take up the expanded mandate of additional financing.

ii) District level

The District Project Implementation Unit (DPMU) is also a Society which functions under the Chairmanship of the District Collector. The operational unit at District level is headed by the District Project Manager supported by a team of Assistant Project Managers and a field team at each Cluster. The Project implementation and facilitation is done by the District unit.

iii) Cluster level

A cluster of 10-15 Village Panchayats is formed at the cutting edge level with a five member Project Facilitation Team to provide hand holding support to the grass root level Community Based Organizations.

iv) Village level

The Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC), an inclusive and self governed people's

institution of the target poor identified by the Project is vested with the responsibility of Project implementation at the village level. The Project focusses on establishing strong community oriented organizations for ensuring specific service delivery to the very poor, vulnerable including differently abled and tribals.

It is this community based organization that takes up all Project activities at field level and has evolved into a powerful grass root level body capable of taking up social activities, reaching out and meeting the needs of the target poor thereby ensuring last mile delivery of services.

9.6 Key project activities

Awareness creation through continuous IEC activities and systematic Capacity building programmes to enhance the competence and capability of all the Community based Organizations and the target poor.

Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP), is a robust exercise used along with social mapping and wealth ranking to identify the target poor who would directly benefit and for whom the Project would evolve strategies to help them come out of poverty.

Formation of Village institutions like Village Poverty Reduction Committees focusses on all the needs of the target communities including access to services and entitlements. The Social Audit Committees act as a watch dog ensuring adherence to non negotiable principles of the project. Panchayat Level Federations function as a financial intermediary fulfilling the credit needs of the community by leveraging funds from banks and accessing project funds. And lastly, the Common Livelihood Groups help the poor in creating and building livelihoods by helping them capitalize on economies of scale. All the above mentioned Community based Organizations are facilitated by the

project staff to meet the demands of the target community all by themselves. It is these organizations that ensure last mile delivery of services and long term sustainability.

Vulnerability reduction and social security is ensured through focused and specific service delivery to the very poor, youth, vulnerable including differently abled and tribals. The main focus is to enable the target category graduate to the next level on the empowerment ladder by adopting participatory vulnerability mapping to identify the potential risks and create sustainable livelihoods. Social security is done through life insurance, Social security schemes (pensions), medical needs, food and other consumption needs. The vulnerability reduction measures provide enough scope for the target households to adopt coping mechanisms and to prevent them from slipping back and getting entrapped in the vicious cycle of poverty.

Skill development to youth for employment is one of the prime component under livelihood promotion for harnessing the potential of the youth by providing skill training based on the requirements of job markets. Youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years who are unemployed/ underemployed are provided suitable skill training to improve their skill sets or participate in job fairs and get employed directly.

Promotion of livelihood federation activities through Common Livelihood Groups (CLGs) at intra-village level and Economic Activity Federations (EAFs) at a higher level, either at inter-village level, cluster, Block or district level. It aims to build on existing livelihoods, identify opportunities for new livelihoods (both farm & non-farm) based on potential and scope for marketing. These CLGs and EAFs would capitalize on economies of scale, common infra, common procurement of raw materials and marketing arrangement.

Promotion of institutional federation

to provide facilitation, handholding and sustainability to grass root level Community based Organizations even after the withdrawal of the project to reach out to the needs of the community. These Federations will provide support to the primary community institutions, strengthen them to give quality service to the target people, identify and promote collective efforts in livelihoods and facilitate solutions to emerging inter village issues including conflict resolution.

9.7 Achievements till 31.03.2012

SI No	Activity	Achievement till 31.03.2012	Achievement since May 2011
Project Fund Achievements			
1.	Participatory identification of poor and list approved by Grama Sabha.	Fully completed	Fully completed

SI No	Activity	Achievement till 31.03.2012	Achievement since May 2011
2.	Village Poverty Reduction Committees formed	Fully completed	Fully completed
3.	SHGs formed among women and youth.	15,022	334
4.	SHGs among the differently abled	7,996	119
5.	Differently abled and vulnerable given financial assistance to start livelihood activities	1,63,580	13,541
6.	Youth given job oriented skill training	1,70,063	25,330
7.	Youth gainfully employed	1,43,709	40,730
8.	Panchayat Level Federations restructured	2400	65
9.	Livelihood corpus fund released.	Rs.208.13 crores	Rs.80.21 crores
10.	Common Livelihood Groups formed	3,370	1521

SI No	Activity	Achievement till 31.03.2012	Achievement since May 2011
Non- Project Fund Achievements			
11.	Newly formed & differently abled SHGs received Revolving Fund	19,868	2454
12	Amount of first dose of credit	Rs.116.43 crores	Rs.14.65 crores
13	SHGs given second dose of credit	8144	2,889
14	Amount of second dose of credit	Rs.104.89 crores	Rs.35.90 crores
15	Differently abled received maintenance grant through project intervention	9,071	2,612
16	Differently abled persons received aids and appliances	19,114	5,033
17	Aged persons received old age pension.	68,641	15,727

9.8 Recognition

Pudhu Vaazhvu Project bagged the 3rd position in the recently held 'Fifth International Annual People First Awards' on social accountability. The project received the honour for " having created considerable impact in terms of inclusion and poverty reduction; being very good at adapting a diverse range of social accountability approaches to the local context. The results, particularly the notable focus on persons with disabilities, tribal communities and women are particularly impressive."

9.9 New initiatives for addressing causes of poverty and empowerment

Poverty reduction cannot be achieved by capacity building, access to credit and creation of livelihoods resulting in increase in income of poor families. The new initiatives will primarily focus on underlying causes of poverty like health, education, nutrition, sanitation, access to information etc. Pudhu Vaazhvu Project is committed to improving the livelihoods and empowerment of the target families. The

primary objective of these new initiatives is to optimize and maximize the impact of poverty reduction initiatives taken up through the Project and link it through convergence activities with other Government schemes in both existing and new project areas.

9.9.1 Village Knowledge Centers

Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRCs) apart from taking up Project activities also functions as a body which facilitates getting entitlements and access to Government Programme to the target poor. The VPRCs are having basic infrastructure of a computer and printer. This facility is now being utilized for MIS purposes and also for VPRC and PLF accounts management. The existing infrastructure would be utilized by the VPRCs to function as a 'Village level knowledge center' under the guidance of the project team. All the VPRCs in the project area would be strengthened to function as Village knowledge centers and will be fully equipped with a Broadband connection, web camera, Educational CDs and books for Competitive

Examinations. These Centers would provide information on market prices, telemedicine, job information to youth, career guidance to youth, etc. and also provide educational inputs to students with a window to the world through guided internet browsing. All the 2509 Project Villages in the existing project areas would be covered under this programme.

9.9.2 Health Card Programme

Poverty has to be addressed holistically by attacking the causative factors like ill health, poor sanitation, lack of education, malnutrition etc.,. The project has facilitated target households access health insurance schemes. From last year anaemia control programme for the benefit of rural women folk has been started and VPRCs have got a weighing machine which will be effectively utilized to check the BMI of adolescent girls and pregnant women.

In order to track the health and well being of poor women it has been proposed to issue health cards to all the target households to

monitor their health status and take timely corrective action. The card will record information on height, weight, blood group, blood pressure, sugar and haemoglobin levels through quarterly health check up programme. VPRCs will play a key role in mobilizing the target household and keep record of the observations. Local VHNs would be roped in to provide the necessary services in recording and monitoring the health indicators.

9.9.3 Career guidance to youth

Education and skills are game changers for a lifetime and their impact can be felt over generations. This impact is more pronounced among the poor marginalized people in rural areas. In rural areas, poor students and youth are not aware of various options available for higher education and opportunities for skill training provided by the Government as well in the private sector which will catapult them to the next level. Due to lack of information and supportive counselling, even after scoring good marks they are not able to choose the best professional or technical courses which have a

demand in the market. Keeping this critical issue in mind, retired Head Master / Resource persons who are still looked upon in rural areas as source of inspiration and information were identified in all the Panchayats in addition to two Community Professionals (Jobs). They will be provided orientation at the block level and district level by the project team. The prime objective of providing career guidance to the youth is facilitating them to move up in their career and life. They will provide information about the various courses available to +2 students and the colleges offering those courses including the scope for employment. They will also provide information regarding the financial assistance available from Government in the form of scholarship or Bank loan. The Village Knowledge centre and career guidance unit under the supervision of VPRC will address the "Information poverty" one of the major cause for intergenerational poverty.

9.9.4 Individual Identity Card

Identity cards are now being issued to Self Help Groups and not to individual

members. Women SHG members face a lot of hardship when they go to public offices and institutions without a proper identity card. Each woman SHG member will gain confidence and respect when they have an identity card. All SHG members in the existing project areas would be provided with individual identity card with photograph and important details like blood group and contact address.

9.9.5 Community based approach for addressing mental health issues

Bringing positive and meaningful transformation in the quality of life of persons with mental health issues will be taken up by providing medical and rehabilitation services and improving their participation in community activities including access to livelihoods. To sensitize the village communities and community organizations on issues of mental health it is proposed to conduct Community based screening, improving the understanding of the needs of people with mental health issues and the opportunities for bringing them back into the mainstream by providing social

protection, skill development and livelihoods improvement. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and district mental health programme would also be involved in the efforts apart from technical agencies in the field.

During 2012-13 this programme will be implemented in 2509 Village Panchayats covering 16 Project districts with grant assistance from Japan Policy for Human Resource Development at an outlay of Rs 13.6 crores.

9.9.6 Internship programme in livelihood

The Common Livelihood Groups comprising mostly poor women require handholding support for various aspects of their livelihood activities like collective procurement, processing, scaling up production, Cost reduction, quality control, marketing strategies, pricing, branding, packaging, diversification, improving managerial skills, etc.,. They lack entrepreneurial skills too. Students studying management in colleges and Universities take up projects as part of their academic courses.

The Project will work with educational institutions and colleges to provide internship for management students for a period of six months for working with Common Livelihood Groups. The Interns will visit rural areas, study the livelihood activities and facilitate the Common Livelihood Groups by providing handholding support to them in order to strengthen the existing activity to achieve economies of scale and explore new markets.

9.9.7 Community accounting software C- book keeping

The Community based Organizations are given pre-eminent position by the Project in order to take care of the interest of the target population. These CBOs do a lot of accounting and send reports. To make the CBOs job easier and their accounting and reporting simpler, a software C – Bookkeeping with TALLY background is designed to match their skills, understanding and expertise. Computerized accounting system helps in transparency in accounts maintenance, figures are readily available and monitoring made

easy. All Project Villages including the new areas under additional financing would have this facility during this year.

9.10 Financial performance

Till 31.03.2012

The expenditure incurred under the Project from inception till 31.03.2012 is Rs. 720.99 crores under the existing project and additional financing in new project areas.

From 1.4.2011 to 31.03.2012

The expenditure incurred under the Project from 1.04.2011 till 31.03.2012 is Rs. 131.87 crores under the existing project and additional financing in new project areas.

A sum of Rs.350.00 crores has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2012-2013 for both existing and new Project areas.

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.

The TPIU implemented the following projects in the Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu.

- I. Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project (TEAP) was taken up in 2005 at an outlay of Rs.292.50 crores with loan and grant assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for livelihood promotion and infrastructure development. The project was completed on 31.10.2009.
- II. Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package (RGRP) funded by the Government of India (GOI) for Tsunami affected areas was taken up at an outlay of about Rs.716 crores as grant for reconstruction

of vulnerable houses and provision of basic amenities.

- III. 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 about 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 is taken up in Tiruvarur district also.

10.1 Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project (TEAP) funded by ADB

Project was implemented at an outlay of Rs.292.50 crores.

The funds were utilized under two components:

- i. Under livelihood component, the funds were utilized for the restoration of livelihood activities of 2,70,308 beneficiaries at an estimated cost of Rs.183.23 crores.
- ii. Under Damaged Infrastructure component, 821 works were taken up for providing Rural Infrastructure and Sanitation and completed at an expenditure of Rs.96.27 crores.

10.2 Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package (RGRP)

RGRP, funded by the 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.

Though the scheme was conceived & implemented in 2006, Pudukottai District had not completed 1,102 houses which had been pending for a long time. This Government took it as a challenge and mobilized necessary resources to complete these houses. As on date, 629 houses have been completed and remaining 473 houses are in advanced stages which will be completed soon.

10.3 Emergency Tsunami Rehabilitation Project (ETRP)

Emergency Tsunami Rehabilitation Project was formulated in 2005 for Sustained livelihood 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 High Tide Line (HTL).

The objectives of the Project are:

- Revive livelihood

- Ensure recovery in the Tsunami affected areas in short time
- Reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities from natural calamities viz. cyclone, storm surge, flood and tsunami in future.

10.3.1. 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. Tenders have been finalized in all the 157 packages. Out of 15,056 houses identified, 15,056 houses were found eligible and construction for 5,619 houses under Phase I in 61 packages commenced in May – July 2010 and in Phase II, a total of 9,437 houses in 96 packages have been taken up in August – October 2010.

As on 15th March 2012, out of 14,364 houses taken up 7,613 houses have been completed, 1,810 houses are at Roof laid stage, 1,104 houses are at Roof level stage, 624 houses are at Lintel Laid stage, 983 houses are at Lintel level stage, 1,367 houses are at basement level and 863 houses are at below basement level. The agreement value for these houses is Rs.543.86 crores.

The beneficiaries are paid Rs.1000/- each as shifting allowance and are also paid a monthly rent of Rs.500/- each per month. This is given for a maximum period of 18 months.

ii) Provision of evacuation routes with signages:

The construction of evacuation routes with signages along the coastal areas to provide 'easy escape' to safer shelters in times of emergencies, is taken up for a length of 45 kilometres at an estimated cost of Rs.25 crores.

11. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) ASSISTED POST TSUNAMI SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME

11.1 Goal and Objectives :

Restoration and improvement of livelihood opportunities of people affected by the Tsunami in six coastal districts, in a sustainable manner is the goal of the programme. The objectives include identification and development of income generating activities by building up the capacity of the target group. Developing new strategies for efficient utilization of the natural resources is also a key focus.

11.1.1. Programme at a glance :

Duration	:	8 years (Upto 2016)
Cost	:	Rs.283.69 crores
Population Covered	:	1.55 lakh households with about 6 lakh population
No. of Panchayats & Blocks covered	:	109 Panchayats in 24 Blocks
Project Districts	:	Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari

11.1.2. Targeted Population

Coastal dwellers (in village directly or indirectly affected by the Tsunami) ie.

- 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) Marginalized occupation groups (e.g seashell workers)
- v) Small and marginal farmers ;
- vi) Very poor and poor identified through Participatory Rural Appraisal exercise.

11.1.3 Programme Components

i) Coastal Area Resource Management

(a) Community Support :

At the grassroot level, the programme is supported by the Cluster Resource Centres. A Cluster Resource Centre (CRC) is a group of 5–7 coastal Panchayats. 28 CRCs have been

established in the project area in partnership with Facilitating Non-Governmental Organizations (FNGOs). A Cluster Coordinator, a Facilitator and a Business Promoter have been placed in each of the CRCs.

(b) Community Resource Planning :

The community with the active help of the personnel of the CRC undertakes a Participatory Resource Mapping exercise, which identifies and prioritizes the infrastructure needs of the community. Infrastructure micro plans are developed based on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Environmental, gender concerns and the various livelihood options are addressed in these micro plans.

90% of the required funds are allotted to the community to implement these micro plans. The community on its part contributes 10% of the cost of micro plans by way of cash.

(c) Fisheries Resource Management :

Identification of key issues in coastal and fisheries resources and their management is crucial, so that the communities are facilitated

to plan and improve their environment and livelihoods. For this purpose, the services of specialist organizations in the fisheries sector are utilized. Awareness creation through workshops on environmental impact, safe fishing practices and diversification of fishing operations etc are undertaken at village, district and state levels.

11.1.4 Rural Finance and Risk Transfer Instruments

(a) Micro Credit for SHGs :

The District Implementation Office (DIO) in coordination with Mahalir Thittam regularly grades the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and recommends them to banks for Direct Linkage. The bank staff are also sensitized about the rejuvenated SHGs, restructured Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) and their performance in repayment. Exposure visits are also being arranged for the bankers, to meet the SHGs / PLFs and understand their needs so that the bank can extend timely credit assistance to the eligible groups.

(b) Risk Management and Insurance :

Workshops on the risk management needs of the fishing community are conducted by the project. The Vulnerability Reduction Fund extends soft loans to the poor at the time of disasters. This fund is managed by the PLFs. The project contributes 4/5th share of the fund and 1/5th share is contributed by the community. Workshops on insurance help the community to decide on suitable insurance products. SHGs and the members of Fish Marketing Societies (FMS) are also given training on insurance. Insurance products covering life, health, personal accident, assets etc., have been identified. Thousands among the coastal population have enrolled themselves in these insurance policies.

(c) Establishment of Venture Capital Fund

The Venture Capital Fund would supplement the loans from banks to SHGs, fishermen societies and individuals. The fund will be managed by a professional financial entity that has the necessary skills to provide support for the nascent enterprises to make them successful.

11.1.5 Employment Generation and Skill Training

(a) Support to SHGs :

To ascertain the status of SHGs and PLFs, a structured survey has been undertaken. The identified weak SHGs are provided with capacity building training. The PLFs have also been restructured and the office bearers given training.

(b) Formation of Fish Marketing Societies:

In partnership with South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) the project has proposed to set up 50 Fish Marketing Societies (FMS), limiting membership to owners of small crafts, Kattumarams and Vallams. SIFFS is also given grants to finance loan redemption of the members of the FMS. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) examines proposals submitted by SIFFS on Out Board Motor (OBM) repair centres, Boat Yards and Federations of the FMS.

(c) Vocational Training :

For the unemployed youth in the project area, vocational trainings in suitable trades, with duration ranging from 3 months to one year are provided with assured employment. The institutions offering such trainings are selected following the prescribed procurement procedure.

(d) Micro Enterprise Development :

Activity groups, PLFs, members of FMS and poor individuals are encouraged to establish micro enterprises that are viable. Technical specialists / reputed organizations / institutes are engaged in conducting district wise sub-sector studies and analyses. The Programme Management Unit in partnership with Non Government Organizations (NGOs) / organizations that have experience in development of micro enterprises, works to develop clusters of enterprises in the identified sub-sectors. So far, 56 micro enterprises have been floated in the project area.

11.1.6 Community based Sea Safety and Disaster Management

Workshops and trainings have been conducted on sea safety measures (communication aids, life saving techniques etc..) utilizing subject experts. As there is need to educate school children on disaster management, workshops are conducted to evolve resource material and curriculum on environmental education in primary schools. Teachers have been sensitized on such study material. Developing, printing and dissemination of resource material, its periodical review and presenting awards to model schools are part of this component. It is also planned to inculcate financial literacy among the children studying in coastal schools.

11.2 Organizational Arrangements for Implementation

Level	Unit	Guided by
State	Programme Management Unit	Programme Steering Committee (PSC) headed by Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
District	District Implementation Office	District level implementation advisory committee (DLIAC) headed by Collector.
Village	Cluster Resource Centre	Cluster Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions, Non Government Organizations, traditional institutions etc.

Project Financing:

Agency wise:

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No	Agency	Amount	%
1.	IFAD	132.32	47
2.	Government of Tamil Nadu	12.00	4
3.	Bank / Micro Finance Institution	100.61	35
4.	Beneficiary Contribution	38.76	14
Total		283.69	100

Component wise:

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Component	Amount	%
1.	Coastal Area Resource Management	41.16	14.51
2.	Rural Finance and Risk Transfer Instruments	159.50	56.23
3.	Employment Generation and Skills Training	66.31	23.37
4.	Community Based Sea Safety and Disaster Management	1.80	0.63
5.	Programme Management	14.92	5.26
Total		283.69	100

ACTIVITY-WISE PROGRAMME COST

(Rupees in thousand)

S. No.	Component	Amount	% to total Base Cost
A. Coastal Area Resource Management			
1.	Community Resource Planning (Capacity Building)	11,800	
2.	Community Support (Establishment of CRCs)	1,07,802	4
3.	Fisheries Resource Management (Workshops, studies & pilot initiative fund for improving fisheries management)	27,500	1
4.	Community Infrastructure Fund	2,64,500	9
Sub Total		4,11,602	14
B. Rural Finance & Risk Transfer Instruments			
1.	Venture Capital Fund	36,000	1
2.	Support for banks & MFIs (Establishment of district offices of MFIs, training & workshops for bank & MFI staff)	12,120	

3.	Risk Mitigation (Insurance investigations & pilots, contribution to disaster management fund by Project & SHGs, insurance training for SHG members)	39,170	1
4.	Product development & innovations (Product development for ME financing – support to MFIs, studies & exposure)	11,000	
5.	Incremental credit Fund (Banks & MFI credit to SHGs, ME and Fish Marketing Societies)	14,96,765	52
	Sub Total	15,95,055	56
C. Employment Generation & Skill Training			
1.	Support for SHGs (support to SHGs – mapping, training, kits, federation development & NGO staff training)	17,388	1
2.	Support for IGAs (IGA training, facilitation for business upscaling, best business practices, training in new technology, market linkage workshops)	36,970	1

3.	Fish marketing Societies (Debt redemption fund, support for marketing infrastructure facilities, repair centers, beach landing centers, organization expenses)	3,16,800	11
4.	Micro Enterprise Development (sub-sector survey, studies, BDS support, technology pilots, technical assistance – overseas trainers, trainings & workshops)	2,06,855	7
5.	Vocational Trainings (Review, support for vocational trainings, fishing skill development – training & workshops)	85,075	3
	Sub Total	6,63,088	24
D. Community Based Sea safety & Disaster management			
1.	Promotion of sea safety (Feasibility study in a district, cell phone subsidy, training & publicity)	3,000	

2.	Support for coastal schools (Need Assessment, workshops, development of training educational material, printing & dissemination)	15,000	1
Sub Total		18,000	1
E. Programme Management			
1.	Programme Management Unit (Vehicles, equipments, salaries, office expenses, trainings)	25,739	1
2.	District Offices (Vehicles, equipments, salaries, office expenses, trainings)	1,05,156	4
3.	Project M&E (Vehicles, equipments, salaries, technical assistance)	18,277	1
Sub Total		1,49,172	5
Total Base Cost		28,36,917	100

Component wise expenditure is furnished as below:

(Rupees in lakh)

S. No.	Component	Project Appraisal	Funds released by Govt. TN up to 10-11	Expenditure incurred		Cumulative Expenditure incurred up to 29.02.12	% against Fund released
				From 07-08 to 10-11	2011-12 01.04.11 to 29.02.12		
I.	Coastal Area Resource Management	3851	3720	2643	1362	4005	109
II.	Rural Finance & Risk Transfer Instruments	983	1010	62	49	111	10
III.	Employment Generation & Skill Training	6631	923	350	306	656	66
IV.	Community Based Sea Safety & Disaster Management	180	166	141	1	142	86
V.	Programme Management	1492	945	770	282	1052	110
Total		13137	6764	3966	2000	5966	88

**Component wise expenditure statement
for the year 2011 – 12**

(Rupees in lakh)

S. No.	Component	Budget Estimate	Expenditure 01.04.2011 to 29.02.2012
I.	Coastal Area Resource Management	250.00	1362.35
II.	Rural Finance & Risk Transfer Instruments	97.00	48.65
III.	Employment Generation & Skill Training	1433.00	305.53
IV.	Community Based Sea Safety & Disaster Management	11.00	1.19
V.	Programme Management	296.00	282.50
Total		2087.00	2000.22
Percentage of achievement			96%

Upto 2011-12, 25 FMS have been formed (6 in Nagapattinam, 5 in Thiruvallur, 8 in Kanyakumari, 4 in Cuddalore, 1 in Villupuram and 1 in Kancheepuram districts) and debt relief of Rs.154.62 lakh has been provided to 827 fishermen of 18 FMS. Under Rural Finance and Risk Transfer Instrument component, Vulnerability Reduction Fund of Rs.119.62 lakh has been given to 3358 beneficiaries with community participation. One Fishermen Federation has been formed at Nagapattinam. Under Coastal School Programme, IEC materials on disaster management and environmental awareness were printed and distributed to 90000 coastal school students at a cost of Rs.20.23 lakhs 464 community infrastructure works at a cost of Rs.1862.66 lakh have been completed.

From 01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012, 363 community infrastructure works have been completed at a cost of Rs.1426.09 lakh. 46 Community Exchange visits have been completed through which the participants could learn the developments in other places. 15993 villagers have been trained on insurance and

its importance and 16214 persons have been enrolled in various insurance policies. 1213 SHGs have availed a bank loan of over Rs.23 crores. 28 Livelihood Pilot Initiatives and 28 Sub Sector based Micro Enterprises have been initiated at a cost of Rs.290.02 lakh. 3 FMS have been formed - one in Kancheepuram and 2 in Kanyakumari districts. 405 fishermen have been redeemed from debt with an amount of Rs.85.30 lakh. 1241 youth have undergone Vocational Training Programme.

12. BUDGET FOR 2012-13

A sum of Rs.11,698.94 crores has been provided in the Budget for 2012-13. Out of which, projected revenue expenditure is Rs.8,105.62 crores and capital expenditure is Rs.3,593.17 crores and loan to Government servants is Rs.0.15 crore.

13. CONCLUSION

The thrust areas and strategies adopted by this Government for comprehensive development of rural areas which includes development of rural infrastructure, rural

housing, rural connectivity, provision of basic amenities, poverty alleviation, clean environment and sanitation have been elaborated. The policy initiatives for speedy implementation of the rural development schemes in association with PRIs and other stakeholders have also been highlighted. The "THAI" scheme, a land mark in the process of development planning aimed to improve the basic amenities in all the habitations of the rural area was introduced. The Chief Minister's Solar powered Green House Scheme", a flagship programme of this Government and also unique scheme in the history of the Country in addressing the rural housing issues was launched by our Honourable Chief Minister. The implementation of MGNREGS is given a new thrust in such a way that it will increase the income of the poor families, more number of works in each Village Panchayat, judicious selection of works, land development activities that will benefit SC/ST, Small and Marginal Farmers in rural areas. As committed by this Government, all the Integrated Women Sanitary Complexes have been renovated and entrusted to the user groups. The Department

will intensify its efforts in ensuring the declaration of Tamil Nadu, a open-free defecation State" in the Country.

The ordinary elections to the rural Local Bodies were successfully conducted during Oct. 2011 and all the 1.19 lakhs people's elected representatives have assumed their respective offices.

Today, the SHG movement has spread across the length and breadth of the state due to the concerted efforts taken by TNCDW through the Mahalir Thittam, a state government scheme for women's empowerment. The poor and marginalized women have been targeted under this scheme through measures like skill training and subsidized loans for enhancing their incomes and thus transforming their lives. In the last year youth skill training programmes have been streamlined through standardization of courses, certification of institutes, and compulsory inclusion of soft skills and assured placement of 80% trainees with minimum Rs. 4000 salary. Skill voucher scheme piloted for computer courses will be expanded to cover

many new courses. The self help group movement has enriched the lives of women by capacitating and skilling them to take up innovative economic activities through the enterprise development and marketing training. This government has initiated the process of standardization, branding and marketing of SHG products under the same logo and monogram for providing unique identity and assuring quality standards across the state. Cluster development and One Village One product concept will be given impetus during the current year. TNSRLM will be launched by this government in the current year in 15 districts covering 60 blocks and expanded across the state in a phased manner. This programme will be implemented based on the "Pudhu Vaazhvu" model adopting the approach of community driven development. The government will take all efforts to reach out to poor and marginalized families by creating institutions of the poor, enhancing their skills, access to micro credit and through creation of sustainable livelihoods. Emphasis will be on convergence of different schemes for rural poor for maximizing the benefits through

supplementing and complementing the inputs and outputs of various departments.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken intensive and determined efforts to alleviate poverty through the "Pudhu Vaazhvu" Project based on the Community Driven Development approach launched in 2005. The participatory identification of the poor through a robust system of participatory processes has become a model for other projects. Poverty is multifaceted, the project adopts a multi dimensional approach for poverty alleviation by repeated credit injections for both consumption and income generation, enhancing skills of rural youth through job oriented skill training, creating social capital through home grown community professionals and securing entitlements through convergence with other Government schemes and projects. This year the pilot efforts taken for addressing the underlying causes of poverty and information poverty will be further strengthened through the interventions like health cards, mental illness programmes through PHRD grant, Village Knowledge

centres, Career guidance cell and internship programmes with Colleges. The focus in the coming year will be on addressing the causative factors on poverty and breaking inter generational poverty through targeted interventions of the project and convergence of all schemes for the poor.

The achievement of the department in the past 10 months have received appreciations from all the quarters and brought significant change in speed and quality execution of schemes. This department will continue to maintain its standard of performance in the coming years and strive to ensure overall improvement in the quality of life of the people living in rural areas including SCs/STs, Women and Children. The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will work tirelessly to fulfill the vision and development goals set out by our Honourable Chief Minister.

K.P.Munusamy
Minister for Municipal Administration
and Rural Development