

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

(Item No.21)

01. The Department of Tamil Development - Culture was established in the year 1984, for preservation, exposition of our ancient heritage and for encouraging and promoting arts, crafts and culture. Apart from several voluntary organisations and a few private organisations, the Government undertakings like Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai kuzhu and Jawahar Bal Bhavan make their contributions to the task of preserving art and culture in many fields. District Art Societies in all the District of Tamil Nadu were established to improve the standard of living of the people by promoting art and culture to protect rare art forms and to encourage the skilled artists. These societies serve as a link for the activities relating to development of art, takes on the promotion of art and culture from school level through amateur artists to eminent professionals. Further the District Art Societies function as a centre in District by integrating the activities of Eyal Isai Nataka manram, Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu and Jawahar Bal Bhavan. The District Collector is the Chairman of this society and the Assistant Director of the Tamil Development department is Member-Secretary.

Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka manram

02. The main objectives of the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram consist of exchange of cultural troupes between the States of India, sanctioning of monthly financial assistance to indigent artists, sanctioning of family maintenance grant to the families of deceased famous artists, encouraging talented budding artists by means of providing opportunities for their performances through the various cultural organisations of Tamil Nadu, conferring the State Award of Kalaimamani on the artists for their yeomen services in the various categories of performing arts, extending grant to professional drama troupes for the production and staging of Tamil Dramas depicting scenes from Tamil literature, sanctioning grants for the publication of rare books on arts and culture in Tamil, releasing of grants to voluntary cultural institutions towards the commemorative festival of savants in the field of Tamil Arts, documentation and preservation from extinction of rare forms of traditional arts, tape recording of the rare aspects of music through accredited artists and awarding stipends to poverty stricken students studying in the Film and Television Institutes of Tamil Nadu and the Government Music Training Centres at Chennai and Madurai.

During the year 1994-95 and 1995-96, this Organisation has incurred on expenditure of Rs.68.27 lakhs and Rs.37.93 lakhs respectively.

Sports development authority of Tamil Nadu

03. To channelise the enthusiasm of the young people in Sports activities by creating a suitable set up, which will work for the fulfilment of their aspirations, the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu was formed by merging the Directorate of Sports and Youths Services and Tamil Nadu Sports Development Corporation in the year 1992 (18.7.92). The centrally sponsored programmes like National Service Schemes, youth Hostels, Nehru Yuva Kendras, Youth affairs etc. are also undertaken by this Authority.

The objects for which the Authority was established are:

- i) Plan, promotion and improvement of standards of sports activities, and camps
- ii) To plan, acquire, construct, manage and maintenance of sports infrastructure, facilities such as stadium, play field and ancillary building etc.
- iii) Organising and offering facilities for tournaments, coaching camps, exhibition matches and other sports activities.
- iv) Establishing and administering sports and games Institutions/Sports complexes.
- v) Provision of financial assistance to youngsters to excel in sports; extension of financial assistance to outstanding sports persons who are in indigent circumstances; payment of cash incentives; sanctioning grants to sports Associations

to participate in the National/South Zone/Inter-State championships and also to certain individuals for participating in International competitions are the activities undertaken by this department. Apart from this the sports schools (Men) and Sports Hostels for both Men and Women also come under the purview of this Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu. For the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Rs. 359.77 lakhs has been earmarked for the year 1996-97.

Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu:

02. "The Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu" established in 1992 is an organisation for fostering and developing activities in the spheres of visual and plastic arts, and for working in co-ordination with the "Lalit Kala Akedemi, New Delhi" and promoting thereby the cultural unity of the country.

03. Promotion of study and research, Art publications, Co-operation among Artists and Art Associations, encouragement for setting Institutions, establishment of District Art Centres, organising conferences, seminars, exhibitions, recognition and Assistance to approved Art Associations, award of scholarships and prizes to the deserving artists in the field of painting, sculpture and architecture are the various activities of the Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu. During 1995-96 the State Government and the Lalith Kala Academy New Delhi have released a sum of Rs.5.50 lakhs and Rs.0.10 lakhs respectively for this Organisation.

04. The following entrustment of responsibilities in respect of art, culture and sports are recommended by State Planning Commission group for 3 tiers of rural local bodies.

I. VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

<i>ACTIVITY</i> (1)	<i>ENTRUSTMENT OF POWERS</i> (2)
1. Promotion of Cultural Activities	(1) Organising sports, festivals and cultural events in the village. (2) Promotion of literacy, small family norms national integration through folk media and Troupes. (3) Identify the indigent Artists in distress and arrange for assistance. (4) Creation and maintenance of village play-field and provision of play materials. (5) Co-ordination for establishment of sports complex, Nataka saba and other infrastructure at village level to promote cultural activities and sports. (6) Establishment of Crafts Museum, art gallery and village register roll of honour of artists, musicians, dancers, crafts persons, literacy figures etc., in the village and maintainance of the same.

II. PANCHAYAT UNION

<i>ACTIVITY</i> (1)	<i>ENTRUSTMENT OF POWERS</i> (2)
1. Promotion of Cultural Activities	(1) Plan and organise sports and cultural meets with the help of Local Cultural Organisations and village panchayats. (2) Organising Local festivals with the help of village panchayats. (3) Establishment of sports complex, Nataka saba and other infrastructure at village level to promote cultural activities and Sports.

III. DISTRICT PANCHAYAT

<i>ACTIVITY</i> (1)	<i>ENTRUSTMENT OF POWERS</i> (2)
I. Promotion of Cultural Activities.	<p>(1) Guide, encourage and Co-ordinate in organising the Drawing and Painting competitions, coaching camps, exhibition, matches, Tournaments, Youth fairs and Festivals, Programmes in the Districts with the association of Eyal, Isai Nataka Manram, Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu and sports Development Authorities concerned</p> <p>(2) Honouring Artists/ Artisans/ craftsmen and sports persons of outstanding merit and giving them awards. Preparing & maintaining a scroll of known artists/musicians/ artisans/craftmen of the district.</p> <p>(3) Plan for improvement of sports standards of Games and provision of infrastructure facilities to the village panchayats.</p>

Administrative implications

05. There is no separate field staff to look after the cultural activities at the District/Panchayat Union/ Village Panchayat level. Only recently (1996) District Art Societies have been established in all the Districts of Tamil Nadu to promote Art and Culture and to protect rare art forms and to encourage the skilled artists. The District Collector and Assistant Director of the Tamil Development Department will function of the Chairman and Member-Secretary respectively of the District Art Societies. It has been planned to make functioning of the District Art Societies as a Centre in District by integrating the activities of Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu and Jawahar Bhavan. Likewise the District sports authorities also have limited staff at the District Head Quarters.

06. The State Planning Commission has recommended basically Non-administrative powers to be entrusted to the rural local bodies. So there will not be much disturbance in the existing organisation set - up of the different departments which look after the cultural activities.

Financial implications

07. The powers entrusted to the District Panchayats and Panchayat Unions are of Planning, supervisory and co-ordinative nature, where as the Village panchayats have to arrange/organise cultural festivals/activities, sports events/ meets etc. periodically. So the funds required for these activities are to be provided to the Village Panchayats by the State Government through the District Panchayat /Panchayat Union and other State level Government agencies.

Legal implications

08. As there is no diversion /entrustment of Administrative /Financial powers to the Panchayat Raj Institutions except the provision of grant to Village Panchayat, Legal Implications doesn't arise. However specific Government order is required for provision of grant to Village Panchayats through District Arts Societies and District Sports authority for conducting cultural festivals and sports meets respectively. This may be considered at the time of entrustment powers to the PRIs.