



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

*Address by*

**Dr. KIRAN BEDI**

**Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor**

to

THE PUDUCHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



26<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

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எப்பொருள் எத்தன்மைத்து ஆயினும் அப்பொருள்  
மெய்ப்பொருள் காண்பது அறிவு. - குறள்

Whatever thing, of whatsoever kind the  
matter be, the wisdom lies in inquiring  
and finding its real truth. - Kural

**Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members of  
Legislature,**

**I** am extremely delighted to address the fourth session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Puducherry and I convey my heartiest greetings to all the Members of this august House on this occasion.

**2.** I am filled with a deep sense of satisfaction with the initiatives taken by this Government for the welfare of poor and downtrodden in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

**3.** I am happy indeed to share with the Hon'ble Members that the General Election to Lok Sabha 2019 was conducted in a free and fair manner in the Union Territory of Puducherry. I express my sincere appreciation to all the officers and staff involved in the election work. Similarly, the people of Puducherry and the political parties also deserve equal appreciation.

**4.** The Hon'ble Members are aware that the financial resources of Union Territory of Puducherry are limited and the Government is constrained to strike a balance between available resources and possible expenditure. Despite financial constraints, the Government has demonstrated its commitment to ensure adequate provision of funds for the welfare of the poor and needy. The Government expenditure during the last financial year was ₹ 7,342 crore, as against the Revised Estimate 2018-19 of ₹ 7,881 crore, which works out to 93.16%. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that notwithstanding

financial constraints, this Government prudently managed the finances of the Union Territory and repaid the market loan availed during 2008-09 to the tune of ₹ 351 crore without affecting the ongoing welfare schemes.

**5.** Hon'ble Members are aware that the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is one of the major fiscal indicators for determining the State's overall economy. The GSDP of the Union Territory for 2018-19 is ₹ 35,860 crore at current price, which is 11% higher than that of the previous year. The per capita income of Puducherry has also increased from ₹ 2,03,583 (2017-18) to ₹ 2,20,461 (2018-19), showing an impressive annual growth rate of 8%.

**6.** With this introduction, I would like to apprise the Hon'ble Members of this august House of some of the major initiatives / achievements made by the Government under various sectors during the previous financial year.

## **AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE**

**7.** Agriculture is considered as the back bone of rural economy. In order to serve the farming community more effectively and to ensure food security, the Department of Agriculture has been renamed as Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as announced in the Budget 2018-19. Various schemes for increasing the agricultural production in the Union Territory of Puducherry such as issue of agricultural inputs at subsidized cost, transfer of technological know-how to the farmers imparting of training etc., are being implemented. The Government encourages organic farming and guidelines on organic farming practices were framed.

**8.** The shortage of agricultural labourers has been duly addressed by implementation of various schemes with an outlay of ₹ 89.83 crore through appropriate farm mechanization, making available the inputs at subsidized cost, sustaining the area under

agricultural and horticultural crops, etc. Under the scheme “Crop Production Technology”, essential agricultural inputs were distributed to the farmers at subsidized cost in Puducherry region for an amount of ₹ 118 lakh to general farmers, and ₹ 67.30 lakh to SC farmers benefitting around 15,652 farmers.

**9.** Back Ended Investment Subsidy @ ₹ 5,000 per Ha. was given to 3,217 general farmers and 258 SC farmers with an expenditure of ₹ 1.25 crore in Puducherry region. In Karaikal region, the back ended subsidy for Kuruvai paddy crop for the year 2017-18 was provided to 609 farmers for an amount of ₹ 31 lakh. For samba crop for the year 2017-18 in Karaikal region, back ended investment subsidy was extended to 3,193 general farmers and 494 SC farmers involving an expenditure of ₹ 1.58 crore.

**10.** I am glad to inform the Hon’ble Members that under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), 22 projects involving Agriculture, Animal Husbandry,

Fisheries, Dairy, Agricultural Research and Education etc., have been approved by Government of India for an amount of ₹ 9.48 crore.

**11.** Under the crop insurance scheme, 4,997 farmers in Puducherry region covering 4,294 Ha., 4,803 farmers covering 4,878 Ha. in Karaikal Region and 473 farmers covering 231 Ha. in Yanam region have been enrolled. Under the paddy insurance scheme, 86% in Puducherry region, 96% in Karaikal region and 100% in Yanam region have been covered.

**12.** The Regulated Markets one at Thattanchavady in Puducherry region and another in Karaikal region have been integrated under e-NAM Project. All the commodities coming to the market were traded electronically under the e-NAM portal. An assistance of ₹ 30 lakh was received from Government of India for development of infrastructure in the Regulated Market, Thattanchavady. Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) were formed to supply paddy seeds and vegetable seeds to farmers for the first time in the



history of Puducherry. 110 women members in Food Security Cell have been trained in Bee Keeping Scheme so as to implement the same through Women's Self Help Groups and necessary Guidelines have been notified to procure equipments through bank loan with 40% subsidy. In 2018-19 for agriculture education, grant-in-aid to the tune of ₹ 13 crore was released to PAJANCOA.

## **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

**13.** In view of high potential for generating substantial income especially for the rural population and production of high-protein food, this Government has given priority for maintaining healthy livestock, and its sustained productivity. During 2018-19, 49,200 MT of milk, 113.73 lakh eggs and 14,627 MT of meat have been produced in the Union Territory of Puducherry. A detailed project report for modernising the existing Dairy Plant at a cost of ₹ 34 crore has been submitted to Government of India.

**14.** Besides giving free treatment and preventive vaccinations to 3,24,242 cases of livestock, poultry and pet animals, 64 Health camps were conducted, periodically, throughout the Union Territory of Puducherry. 59,862 artificial inseminations were done to produce desirable future live stock and 20,819 calves of desirable superior germplasm were born. Cattle and Poultry Shows were also conducted. Scheme for provision of ear tags showing 12 Digit Unique Identification Number (UID) to all breedable cattle including milch animals in Puducherry for monitoring of milk production and health status of cattle through “Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health” (INAPH) scheme is implemented in this Union Territory.

**15.** For encouraging poultry production, 8,214 dual purpose poultry were reared at Government Poultry Farms and distributed at subsidized price to farmers, and 1,400 turkey poultry were distributed to the needy farmers at half-the-rate. Under “Special Livestock Breeding Programme” (SLBP), cattle feed and

calf feed at 75% subsidy to the non-members of milk co-operative societies were distributed. A key village unit for providing veterinary services has been completed in Murungapakkam village and is to be opened shortly. For veterinary education, grant-in-aid to an extent of ₹ 12 crore was released to Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER) and the number of seats in under graduation course (B.V.Sc.) has been increased from 60 to 80.

## **ART AND CULTURE**

**16.** In order to facilitate the student community to excel in competitive examinations, reference books were purchased to the tune of ₹ 12.50 lakh for Romain Rolland Library. Government Branch Libraries which were functioning in private buildings at Embalam, Nettapakkam, Suthukeny and Thiruvandarkoil have been shifted to Government-owned buildings. Financial Assistance to the tune of ₹ 93 lakh was disbursed to Indigent artists, Tamil scholars and Kalaimamani

Awardees. Financial Assistance of ₹ 5.16 lakh was granted as first installment for manuscript grant to 86 local authors. In commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Kavi Sammelan, recital of Gandhi poems and cultural program were conducted.

## **COMMERCIAL TAXES**

**17.** As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the Commercial Taxes Department contributes to about 45% of Union Territory's own resources. The revenue collection including GST compensation from Government of India for the year 2018-19 stood at ₹ 2,131 crore which is ₹ 272 crore (13.50%) over and above the last year revenue collection of ₹ 1,859 crore. E-Way bill system under the GST Act has also been successfully implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. 5,294 dealers have obtained new registration in GST with effect from its implementation on 1-7-2017.

## **CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**18.** Hon'ble Members are aware that under the State Scheme, 20 kg. of free rice per month is distributed for all BPL and AAY card holders, and 10 kg. of rice per month is distributed for all APL card holders of Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam region. For Mahe region 15 kg. of rice plus 5 kg. of wheat to BPL / AAY card holders, and 5 kg. rice plus 5 kg. wheat to APL card holders are distributed. Under this scheme, cash subsidy was earlier promptly credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiary under DBT mode *in lieu of* rice. Food subsidy/rice is being distributed to an average of 3.35 lakh family ration card holders per month.

**19.** The DBT mode of payment is implemented under the Universal Public Distribution System of Government of India. The subsidy amount is disbursed @ ₹ 1,050.70 per card for 35 kg. of rice to the

poorest of the poor under “Antyodaya Anna Yojana” (AAY) and for Below Poverty Line (BPL), @ ₹ 150.10 per member for 5 kg. of rice. Accordingly, an average of ₹ 10.67 crore is being spent per month from the central assistance through which nearly 1.71 lakh family ration card holders receive the benefits.

## **SCHOOL EDUCATION**

**20.** Needless to say that the learning process in school is instrumental to shaping of one’s character and personality. Education must facilitate the cultivation of a healthy thought process and groom our cognitive abilities. In the present competitive world, education is a basic necessity. In order to promote the school education among the children, this Government has taken various initiatives such as :

- (i) Free distribution of Text Books, Note Books and Uniforms benefitting 1,07,851 students.
- (ii) Transport facilities to school students at concessional rate under one rupee Bus Pass scheme.

- (iii) Conduct of subject-wise motivational classes for SSLC and +2 students to improve the pass percentage of Government School Students.
- (iv) NEET coaching classes are conducted in 3 centres in Puducherry Region and 1 centre in Karaikal Region.
- (v) Smart Classrooms have been established in 133 Government Schools under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and RURBAN Mission.
- (vi) 21 schools have been selected by Atal Innovation Mission to set up Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL).
- (vii) 3 students and 1 supervisor were selected and deputed to participate in the SAKURA Science Exchange Program to visit JAPAN for a week during the month of April, 2018.

- (viii) Under State Pre-matric Scholarship to Other Economically Backward Class (OEBC) Students, ₹ 1.52 crore was sanctioned to 24,996 OEBC students.

**21.** I wish to happily inform the Hon'ble Members that in 2018-19 the pass percentage in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard in Government schools has significantly improved due to the sincere efforts of the Education department. The following table will show the commendable performance in pass percentage.

Class	2017-18	2018-19	Increase
10 Std.	88.06 %	94.85 %	(+) 6.79 %
11 Std.	78.34 %	89.17 %	(+) 10.83 %
12 Std.	73.76 %	85.62 %	(+) 11.86 %

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation to the Education Department particularly to the teaching community for their contribution to the above achievement.



**22.** I take this opportunity to inform the Hon'ble Members that 7 schools have been selected from this Union Territory for National Award under Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2017-18. Puducherry district has been selected for 5 National Awards and ranked "No.1 District in the Country". Karaikal district was selected for two National Awards and ranked "No. 3 in the Country".

**23.** Revised guidelines prioritizing Government school students for admission in 11<sup>th</sup> Standard in Government Higher Secondary Schools in Puducherry and Karaikal regions were issued in May, 2018. Construction of Sports Complex at Lawspet was completed and the building was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-President in July 2018. Detailed Project Reports for construction of rural sports stadiums with financial assistance under CSR was sent to Airport Authority of India (AAI) and approval for the construction of 4 indoor stadiums was received from AAI in March 2019. MoU has also been signed with AAI.

## **HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**24.** I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that 5,389 students pursuing professional courses were benefitted under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme and ₹ 41 crore was given to students on this count in 2018-19. A new Post Graduate Centre for Arts and Science Courses were started in the name of "Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Post Graduate Centre" in the premises of the Arignar Anna Government Arts and Science College, Karaikal. Admission for the Arts and Science courses, Polytechnics, Fine Arts and Hotel Management have been brought within the purview of CENTAC from the academic year 2018-19. A common On-line admission process covering all higher education courses was introduced in the Union Territory of Puducherry in 2018, which is first of its kind in the country.

**25.** 240 seats were increased in four courses in Pondicherry Engineering College, under self finance scheme, and 130 Under Graduation seats were

increased at Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Puducherry in various branches. 25.63 acres of land of Agriculture Department, has been transferred to the Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, Puducherry during April 2018 for construction of buildings at Karaikal for Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Institute of Engineering and Technology, and Women's Polytechnic College.

**26.** A new On-line College Management System (CMS) was launched in 2018 which provides the details of attendance of students, teachers and staff, and daily activities of colleges. Further, all academic details of the Institution including the courses offered, syllabus, admission details, course coverage, teaching and evaluation process, profile of students and staff have been made available in public domain.

**27.** I am proud to share with the Hon'ble Members that three Higher Education Institutions functioning in this Union Territory have ranked better which evidently

proves Union Territory's continued excellence in higher education. I also wish to inform that Pondicherry Engineering College (PEC) ranks 76<sup>th</sup> among the 969 Engineering Colleges of the Country studied for ranking by the National Institute of Ranking Framework 2019. Similarly, Kanchi Mamunivar Centre for Post-graduate Studies (KMCPGS) secured 49<sup>th</sup> rank among Arts and Science Institutions in 2018-19 among 1,304 Arts and Science Colleges. Tagore Government Arts and Science College and Indira Gandhi College for Arts and Science ranked between 100-150<sup>th</sup> position among Arts and Science Colleges. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Polytechnic College, Yanam has got accreditation by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) during June 2018.

## **ELECTRICITY**

**28.** In order to meet the increasing power demand and to avail centrally allocated cheaper power for Karaikal region from Central Generating Stations, 230 KV Karaikal - Bahour line and Karaikal - Neyveli line, and a new 230 / 110 KV Substation at

Pillaitheruvasal of Karaikal region were technically commissioned after synchronization with Southern Regional Grid at a project cost of around ₹ 48.17 crore.

**29.** Under R-APDRP-Part-A scheme, a new system has been established at a cost of ₹ 8.32 crore for the automation of operation and control of HT Feeders, Distribution Transformers and monitoring of power outflow by setting up of Control Centre with associated RTUs and communication facilities. The Smart Grid Pilot Project at a cost of ₹ 33.83 crore is implemented under the National Smart Grid Mission with 50% grant from Government of India and balance through an investor-*cum*-service provider. So far 27,500 Smart Meters were fixed in the Town areas and the Smart Grid Control Centre has been completed.

**30.** Under the scheme, Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (“SAUBHAGYA”)-Power supply was effected to 912 domestic services under “Gram Swaraj Abhiyan”. All the 3,82,100 households in the

Union Territory of Puducherry have been 100% electrified. Under the scheme, UJALA, 55,500 LED bulbs were distributed to the consumers of Puducherry and Karaikal regions.

## **FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE**

**31.** Fisheries sector occupies a very important place in the socio-economic development of the country. It has been recognized as a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries. It is also a source of cheap and nutritious food besides being a foreign exchange earner. Most importantly, it is the source of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population who are domiciled in the coastal area.

**32.** This Government has always shown keen interest in the welfare of fishing community in the Union Territory of Puducherry. To support them, Ban Relief Assistance was provided during ban period (61 days) @ ₹ 5,500 for 17,262 families in Puducherry,

Karaikal and Yanam regions in 2018-19. For Mahe region ban assistance @ ₹ 4,690 (52 days) was disbursed to 545 families, with a total expenditure of ₹ 11.62 crore. 6,949 aged fishermen were granted Old Age Pension (OAP) to the tune of ₹ 12.24 crore. Lean assistance @ ₹ 2,500 per family was given to 17,807 families for a total amount of ₹ 4.45 crore. Similarly, reactivation charges was granted @ ₹ 20,000 and ₹ 10,000 to 257 Steel/Wooden Mechanized Boats, and FRP boats respectively.

**33.** Construction of Fishery Harbour at Yanam with an estimated cost of ₹ 19 crore was completed and inaugurated for the use of landing jetty and other ancillary facilities. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Savings-cum-relief fund”, ₹ 60 lakh was disbursed to 3,358 active fishermen beneficiaries of Yanam region @ ₹ 2,700 each, meant for the year 2015-16. ₹ 59 lakh was released by Government of India for the scheme “Motorization of traditional

crafts and Safety of fishermen at sea” for 2018-19. Besides, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) which includes 17 various projects with an estimated cost of ₹ 192.52 crore has been sent to Government of India under “Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries”. I take this opportunity to share with the Hon’ble Members that administrative approval for upgradation of existing fishing harbour at Thengaithittu, Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹ 15.63 crore has been accorded by Government of India.

## **FOREST AND WILDLIFE**

**34.** This Government has initiated various measures to enhance the green cover and to protect the wild animals through existing Forest Act and Wildlife Protection Act. So far 50,000 forest tree seedlings have been planted along the roadsides, tank bunds, educational institutions, industries, agricultural lands, etc. Nearly two lakh saplings were distributed to the public, schools, NGOs and industrial institutions to



motivate tree planting. An extent of 50 Ha. of land has been covered under Social Forestry Scheme and Agro Forestry. Under the enforcement activities, special efforts were taken to safeguard the existing standing trees and also to prevent wild animal poaching and hunting. Awareness programme for conservation and protection of mangrove forest was also organized.

## **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**35.** I wish to apprise the Hon'ble Members of this august House that in order to ensure adequate qualitative, preventive and curative health care services to all, this Government has taken various steps in this direction. The Government has spent around 7.5% of total outlay of state budget for health care in 2018-19 which evidently shows the firm commitment of the Government to providing health care for all. It gives me immense pleasure to note that this Union Territory continues to rank high in many crucial health indicators which had received wider accolades.

**36.** The Government has recently transferred land measuring 50 acres to JIPMER for building an exclusive Organ Transplant Wing at Sedarapet wherein various organs will be harvested for transplantation and Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 582 crore for this project. JIPMER has proposed to give ₹ 30 crore for renovation of General Hospital, Karaikal and purchase of medical equipments there. A MoU has been signed with JIPMER for providing speciality services in Yanam region for which Government of India has earmarked ₹ 48 crore in the first phase for building a Multi-Speciality Unit at Yanam and improving the infrastructure facilities of General Hospital Yanam at an estimated cost of ₹ 99 crore. Newly constructed Sub-Centre under the control of Primary Health Centre (PHC) Sorapet was inaugurated which aims at catering to health services for about 4,000 population in and around the area of Sellipet and Vambupet.

**37.** I deem it appropriate to mention here about the growth and achievement of Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute. The medical institution

is located in the heart of the city of Puducherry with an annual admission of 150 students. Started in a small scale with an attached teaching hospital in the year 2010, the college has rapidly progressed into a full-fledged, recognized medical college with 750 bedded Hospital with the active support from the Government. Pondicherry University has recently given affiliation to start PG courses in 10 other disciplines for which the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been approached for its approval.

## **HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS**

**38.** Temple Directory both in English and Tamil language consisting of vital information *viz.*, history of the temples, pooja timings, sacred tanks, temple cars, contact details, affiliated temples along with historical trace of the temple concerned, temples associated with saints, siddhas etc. was released. I am sure that this directory will be immensely useful to the people of Puducherry and tourists as well.

**39.** Annadanam scheme has been implemented in 5 major temples in Puducherry and Karaikal region. Training on HRI Act and Rules to the Board of Trustees / Special Officers / Executive Officers of the temples situated at Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipalities was imparted so as to manage the affairs of temples more effectively. Similarly, three months' training classes were conducted to Gurukkal/ Archagars / Poosaries of the temples at Puducherry region through Vedhasrama Gurukulam at Karuvadikuppam, Puducherry. ₹ 1 crore was spent on various renovation/repair works in 60 purview temples and non-purview temples. Educational scholarship to 1,165 Muslim minority students, and monthly pension @ ₹ 2,000 per month to 10 retired ulamas who had registered in Wakfs, were distributed.

## **INDUSTRIES**

**40.** I wish to inform all the Hon'ble Members that 27 projects have been cleared with an investment of ₹ 177.50 crore ever since the notification of

New Industrial Policy 2016. The Industrial Guidance Bureau has processed 37 applications for setting up of industries in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

**41.** To attract investment in the field of Electronics and Information Technology, an Investor meet was organised in January 2019 in association with NITI Aayog, Manufacturing Association of Information Technology (MAIT) and India's Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). Leading companies participated in the meet. Five billion US dollar investment and 50,000 additional job are expected to be generated in the Union Territory of Puducherry in the coming years.

**42.** Capital investment subsidy of ₹ 67 lakh was released to 32 industrial units under the subsidy scheme "Motivation of Entrepreneurs to start industries and fiscal assistance to industries". Under the Training Scheme, 167 unemployed youths completed In-plant and Advanced training. 526 persons were trained under the schemes "Development of Coir" and "Development of Handicrafts".

**43.** 164 entrepreneurs were sanctioned loan for an amount of ₹ 1.60 crore through various Banks and they received subsidy of ₹ 51.36 lakh under the scheme Motivation of Unemployed Person to start Self-employed Enterprises (MUPSES). Under “Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme”, 45 entrepreneurs were sanctioned loan to the tune of ₹ 2.40 crore and marginal money released for an amount of ₹ 92 lakh.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**44.** Information Technology has become an integral part of governance. All the Government departments in this Administration have been making the maximum use of Information Technology in their day-to-day affairs. As a part of the IT initiative under Online Service Management System (Manav Sampadha), the Service records of all employees are being uploaded and maintained digitally, which will eventually replace the manual service book of employees, helping in streamlining their records. As of now, 55 Departments

have updated the service records of 11,786 employees. On completion of registration, the service details will be fully digitized. In order to enable the public to get stamp paper in their nearest locations, 16 Common Service Centres have been recognized to deliver e-Stamp papers. Under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Sakshrata Abhiyan, 9,200 persons have been trained to make them digitally literate.

## **LABOUR**

**45.** Skill Development Training Programmes especially for SC women were conducted in various trades for 5 days with a view to supplementing their family income through self employment in which SC women hailing from the labourers families participated.

**46.** Vocational Career Guidance Bulletin (both Tamil and English) was published for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Standard separately and distributed to the High School and Higher secondary schools of Puducherry to facilitate the school-leaving students to pursue

their higher education. Two days training programme was conducted for the teachers of Government and Private Schools to undertake On-line Registration of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Standard students with employment exchange at the concerned school itself, so as to avoid hardship to the students in getting their qualification registered with employment exchange.

**47.** Training on GST with Tally was imparted to 48 SC candidates in order to encourage self employment and enable them to get employment in private concerns. A Career Guidance Exhibition was held at Gandhi Thidal, Puducherry for 3 days, in which 30 colleges participated and 2,348 candidates visited. Under “Up-gradation of 400 ITIs through Vocational Training Improvement Project with World Bank Assistance (VTIP)”, six trades were taken up at Government ITI (Men), T.R. Pattinam, Karaikal at a project cost of ₹ 2.20 crore. For the first time, a 10 KW Solar grid Power Plant was installed at the cost of ₹ 8.67 lakh at Government ITI, Nettapakkam, Puducherry.



## **LOCAL ADMINISTRATION**

**48.** I am immensely happy to mention here that Puducherry has been declared as Open Defecation Free State. 4,573 Individual Household Toilets were constructed at a cost of ₹ 11 crore. In order to maintain hygiene and promote basic amenities for the general public in the Union Territory of Puducherry, 9 Community Toilets and 13 Public Toilets have been constructed in various urban areas at an expenses of ₹ 2 crore. All the 122 Municipal wards *viz.*, 42 in Puducherry Municipality, 37 in Oulgaret Municipality, 18 in Karaikal Municipality, 15 in Mahe Municipality and 10 in Yanam Municipality have been declared as Open Defecation Free.

**49.** Solid Waste Management projects were implemented by waste-processing methods such as recycling, composting, vermi-composting, Methanation and Bio-Methanation etc., involving an expenditure of ₹ 2.90 crore. Further, it is proposed to obtain

₹ 17 crore from Government of India under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for handling the various Solid Waste Management projects. The Clean Puducherry is our objective and the State will strive hard to achieve garbage free Puducherry so that the garbage disposal issue will be settled once for all.

## **POLICE**

**50.** In order to strengthen the police machinery, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has released an amount of ₹ 3.23 crore as Central Assistance under the scheme “Nationwide Emergency Response System” (NERS) and an amount of ₹ 98 lakh has already been released to Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) to start the Project. Similarly, ₹ 1.48 crore has been released as Grant-in-aid for the purpose of setting up of Cyber Forensic Lab-*cum*-Training Centre towards implementation of the project “Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children” (CCPWC). To protect the coastal area,

Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 2.44 crore for construction of three coastal police stations one each at Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam and two jetties one each at Karaikal and Puducherry. The works have already been completed in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam Regions and it will commence shortly in Mahe.

## **PORT**

**51.** Due to sustained efforts of the Government, the Pilot project of construction of a near-shore reef to retain beaches along the shoreline of Pondicherry Town funded by M/s. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai has been completed at a project cost of ₹ 30 crore. Upward revision of Port Tariff *viz.* Port Dues, Landing & Shipping Dues and Vehicle Entry Fee for commercial port operations have been notified in the Official Gazette of Puducherry. On account of operations at the private port at Karaikal, ₹ 11 crore was earned as revenue during 2018-19 in the form of Concession fee.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

**52.** I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that despite financial constraints, the Government is keen on creation / maintenance of vital infrastructure facilities like roads, bridges, irrigation, flood control and water supply projects. Nine major water supply projects in various localities were completed with the total expenditure of ₹ 20 crore which includes 7 works in Puducherry, provision of water purification system in 10 locations at Karaikal and one work in Dariyalathippa in Yanam region.

**53.** Desilting of various channels at Karaikal district involving ₹ 3 crore, and 11 building construction works for ₹ 40 crore consisting of 7 works in Puducherry (₹ 31 crore), 1 work each in Karaikal (₹ 5 crore) and Mahe (₹ 2 crore) and 2 works in Yanam (₹ 1.35 crore) were undertaken. In Roads and Bridges sector, 7 major road works including construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB), strengthening / improvement of existing roads were completed involving

an expenditure of ₹ 71 crore. Negotiated Loan to the extent of ₹ 100 crore was availed from HUDCO and NABARD for various ongoing projects and many works are nearing completion.

**54.** Cauvery river dispute including the court cases were effectively followed-up in order to protect the interests of Government of Puducherry. As per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, 7 TMC water has been allocated to the Union Territory of Puducherry.

## **REVENUE**

**55.** ₹ 10 crore has been released to Karaikal region for relief and rehabilitation measures towards damages/loss caused by the Gaja Cyclone in 2018-19 from the Puducherry Disaster Response Fund (PDRF). Similarly, ₹ 1.50 crore for Yanam region was released for relief and restoration measures towards loss caused by floods. 1,113 families were benefitted under Rajiv Gandhi Social Security Scheme

for Poor Families, 2012, involving an expenditure of ₹ 4 crore. 6 Modern Record Rooms at a cost of ₹ 2 crore have been setup in the Directorate of Survey and Land Records, Puducherry and in all Taluk offices of Puducherry.

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**56.** This Government is implementing various poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes especially for the socio-economic upliftment of rural population. Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), 6 lakh man-days were generated. Under this programme, 121 works were completed in 2018-19 incurring an expenditure of ₹ 15 crore.

**57.** Construction of 19,302 toilets have been completed and 10,402 toilets are under construction. 98 Gram panchayats were declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). 26,623 households have mobilized themselves into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 281 Habitation Level

Federation (HLF) have been formed. Revolving fund has been provided to 566 SHGs. 95 Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs) have been formed and Community Investment Fund (CIF) was given to 47 Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs).

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**58.** As the Hon'ble Members are well aware, environmental protection is one of the challenging tasks before the Government. To conserve natural resources and to prevent pollution, this Government has been taking effective measures. During 2018-19, nine industrial units have installed Continuous Online Emission Monitoring System (COEMS) for continuously monitoring the quality and quantity of waste water discharge and / or air emissions. Financial assistance of ₹ 20 lakh each was extended to Puducherry and Karaikal Municipalities for establishing and operating bio-methanation plant for disposal of solid waste and the same are operational in both the Municipalities.

**59.** A pilot scale project on “Restoration of Pondicherry Beach” through construction of near shore wedge reef, one offshore reef and sand nourishment at a cost of ₹ 30 crore was implemented through National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Plan (PCZMP) maps prepared by the Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai under Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project, funded by World Bank has been approved by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

## **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**

**60.** Hon'ble Members will appreciate the fact that any imbalance between the prevailing land values and financial capacity of individuals obviously makes purchasing / building a house much beyond the reach of urban poor. As such, slum upgradation is the need of the hour. As a part of the mission, 96 dwelling units at Chinnayapuram (Vazhaikulam), Kuruchikuppam, Puducherry with an estimated cost of ₹ 11 crore have been completed and allotted



to the beneficiaries under the Slum Up-gradation Programme. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana schemes, 4 projects have been got approved under the Beneficiary led Construction Component to construct 1,580 houses. Further, 3 Projects have been submitted to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for approval to construct 597 houses for SC beneficiaries.

## **TOURISM**

**61.** The tourism sector in Puducherry Union Territory is registering a constant growth and there was about 8% increase in tourists' arrival during the last year. Puducherry is a well known week-end destination for tourists. Beach Development at Vambakeerapalayam, Veerampattinam, Chinna Veerampattinam beaches have been completed. In addition, Kirumampakkam Lake was taken up for development at a cost of ₹ 9 crore. The Arts and Crafts Village at Murungapakkam has been established to promote village crafts. A Beach Resort at Karaikal was operationalised by Indian Tourism Development Corporation. The work for development of Museum and Interpretation Centre

for Arikamedu at a cost of ₹ 10 crore was taken up. In order to generate additional revenue and to encourage private participation in tourism industry, action has been taken to outsource operation and maintenance of the new assets.

## **TRANSPORT**

**62.** In order to avoid road accidents, regular Road Safety Awareness Programmes were conducted. Apart from this, traffic rules were strictly enforced which has considerably brought down the incidence of traffic violations, rash driving, etc.

**63.** The Vahan software with on-line facility for registration of vehicle has been introduced and is successfully functioning in all the Regional Transport Offices and its Unit Offices in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The e-auction of Fancy Number is being carried out since July 2018. Revenue collection through Transport Department in 2018-19 was ₹ 114 crore. The Motor Vehicle Tax including entry tax was revised after a long gap of 10 years which

is expected to improve the revenue collection considerably. In order to redress genuine public grievances against autorickshaws, 'Meghadoot Post Card' complaint mechanism was introduced. One lakh Post Card was printed and distributed to the general public for this purpose.

## **ADI DRAVIDAR AND SCHEDULED TRIBE WELFARE**

**64.** The Government of Puducherry is implementing various welfare schemes for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people to improve their socio-economic and educational status in this Union Territory. An amount of ₹ 283 crore was spent under SCSP component in 2018-19.

**65.** Under Prathan Mantri Awas Yojana Subsidy Scheme, an amount of ₹ 6.45 crore was sanctioned in first installment to 718 SC beneficiaries. Under the Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi House Construction

Subsidy scheme, an amount of ₹ 16 crore was sanctioned in second and third installments for 1,070 SC beneficiaries for construction of well designed concrete house.

**66.** Financial assistance of ₹ 75,000 to the bride's marriage belonging to SC community to 806 families was granted. With an intention of reducing the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) rate, financial assistance of ₹ 12,000 (₹ 6,000 at Pre-natal and ₹ 6,000 at Post-natal) per beneficiary is provided to the pregnant and lactating women under which 807 SC women were benefitted. I am happy to share with the Hon'ble Members that the financial assistance to pregnant and lactating women has been enhanced from ₹ 12,000 to ₹ 18,000 *w.e.f.* December 2018.

**67.** In order to help the SC families who are suffering from various prolonged illness, AD Welfare department provides medical assistance of ₹ 3,000 per month. During the year 2018-19, an amount of ₹ 3.80 crore was disbursed to 2,301 SC beneficiaries.

As a part of Government's initiatives to eradicate the un-touchability in the society, an incentive of ₹ 1,00,000 is granted to inter-caste marriage couples. Accordingly, 167 married couples were benefitted and the incentive amount has been enhanced from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 2.50 lakh *w.e.f.* September 2017. An amount of ₹ 16 crore was spent to carry out 115 civic amenities works like roads, community hall, waterborne latrine, etc., in SC habitations in the Union Territory of Puducherry through PADCO. In addition to the above, financial assistance to the extent of ₹ 28 crore was disbursed to 33,225 SC students for their educational pursuits, training and self-employment, etc.

**68.** I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members on this occasion that one ST Community-Irular (Villi and Vettaikaran) has been notified under the Presidential Notification of Puducherry Scheduled Tribes Act, 2016 which was a long pending demand of the community. This would pave way for upliftment of their education and employment avenues in Government services.

## **BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES WELFARE**

**69.** In order to support the Backward Classes students, six Boys / Girls Hostels are functioning of which three are located in Puducherry, two in Karaikal and one in Yanam region. 236 inmates are staying in these hostels and ₹ 1.77 crore was spent in 2018-19 to meet the hostel needs. Under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship to Backward classes, 1,109 students were benefitted. Similarly, under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship to Minorities, 1,266 students got benefitted.

**70.** Press Boxes, Barber chairs, Thavil and Nadhaswaram were distributed to poor artisans at free of cost with an expenditure of ₹ 30 lakh. Under Makkal Thalaivar Thiyagi V. Subbiah Award scheme to meritorious students, 13 students belonging to backward classes who were found meritorious in the school final examination were awarded cash prize.

## **SOCIAL WELFARE**

**71.** I am really happy to share with the Hon'ble Members that in order to protect the interests of Differently Abled persons, 4% reservation in Government recruitments and 5% reservation for Higher and Technical Education were notified.

**72.** 20,952 Differently Abled Persons are given financial assistance ranging from ₹ 1,500 to ₹ 3,300 involving a monthly expenditure of ₹ 4.28 crore. Besides, various welfare programmes *viz.*, financial assistance for marriage, eye donation, funeral expenses, fuel subsidy, transport allowance, free bus pass, scholarship, cash dole *in lieu of* free gift for Diwali, reimbursement of educational expenses to hearing impaired were implemented. 582 beneficiaries were distributed prosthetic appliances in November 2018 amounting to ₹ 36 lakh.

**73.** "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was implemented successfully in Puducherry and Karaikal District. 977 beneficiaries in

Puducherry and 837 beneficiaries in Karaikal were identified and distributed medical devices like hearing aid, dental accessories, etc., in association with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), as per their requirement.

## **WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**74.** Hon'ble Members are well aware that this Government is committed to the upliftment of women and children of the Union Territory of Puducherry. Accordingly, financial assistance @ ₹ 15,000 for performance of marriage of poor brides was granted, and @ ₹ 25,000 towards marriage of daughter of destitute widows was granted in 2018-19. In order to motivate girl children for uninterrupted schooling, National Saving Certificates for ₹ 25,000 were issued to 7 single girl children studying in 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard, and financial assistance in the form of fixed deposit for a sum of ₹ 20,000 was given to 453 poor parents who have one/two girl children and undergone family planning.



**75.** Financial Assistance of ₹ 6,000 was granted to 872 pregnant women and lactating mothers. Incentive of ₹ 50,000 for widow remarriage was also granted. Under “Old Age Pension” scheme, 1,44,847 persons of old age, widows, destitute, unmarried women and transgender avail monthly financial assistance from the Government.

**76.** The financial assistance granted for performing funeral rites of deceased pensioners has been enhanced from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 10,000 with effect from 11-12-2018. The assistance is granted immediately on the day of demise of the pensioner. On the occasion of Diwali festival, cash doles of ₹ 1,000 per ration card was directly paid to the bank account of all the red ration card holders. A sum of ₹ 12.56 crore was spent benefitting to 1,25,666 red ration card holders in 2018-19.

**77.** Supplementary nutrition is provided for 365 days of the year to the Children aged upto 6 years and pregnant / lactating women enrolled

under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme through 855 Anganwadi centers. 25,000 children and 9,000 mothers were benefitted and a sum of ₹ 16 crore was spent for the scheme during the year 2018-19. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) scheme cash incentive of ₹ 5,000 was transferred directly to the bank account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW & LM) for the first living child. A sum of ₹ 3 crore was spent under the scheme benefitting 7,385 women.

**78.** I would like to conclude my speech with a deep sense of contentment that the Union Territory of Puducherry has been progressing well in all spheres despite availability of limited resources and administrative constraints. It is also heartening to note that on account of prudent financial management, the Union Territory finances remain stable and all the fiscal parameters remain within the prescribed limits. Government of Puducherry will carry forward

people-friendly policies, programmes and schemes for the prosperity, welfare and progress of people of the Union Territory of Puducherry and take the Union Territory of Puducherry to new heights of excellence.

**NANDRI !**

**JAI HIND !!**



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