

BUDGET SPEECH

2013-2014

“Never lacking in the four qualities 'courage, liberality, wisdom and energy' is the characteristic of a King”.

-KURAL

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Budget for the year 2013-14. On the Golden Jubilee Year of the Legislative Assembly and on the auspicious day of Birth Anniversary of Perunthalaivar Kamaraj I am proud to present this Budget. The Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2013-14 are being circulated to Hon'ble Members of this august House.

2. At the outset, we are happy that we are the sitting members of the prestigious Assembly which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year. Hon'ble members are aware that the Legislative Assembly was

formed on 1st July 1963. On that day, Thiru Edouard Goubert assumed office as the first Chief Minister of Pondicherry. Thiru Goubert who was initially a pro-French leader had fought for the freedom struggle that ultimately paved the way for Pondicherry attaining sovereignty from the French rule. My Government propose to celebrate this Golden Jubilee by honouring the four living members of the first Legislative Assembly.

3. I had presented a Budget of ` 5,540 crore for 2012-13 out of which ` 3,000 crore of Plan outlay was approved by Planning Commission. My Government has been envisaging higher Plan outlays for the Union Territory in order to provide better living condition and create infrastructural facilities for the people of Puducherry. The sources of funding for Plan has the components of own tax / non-tax revenue mobilised by Union Territory Government, Central Plan Assistance released by Government of

India, Market Borrowings and Negotiated Loans availed by the Union Territory Government from various financial institutions. The approved resources of the Planning Commission for the last Annual Plan consisted of ` 620 crore as Central Assistance from Government of India, ` 736 crore as projected Union Territories own resources, ` 844 crore of market borrowings and negotiated loan along with ` 800 crore of loan from World Bank for taking up long-term restoration works affected in 'Thane' cyclone.

4. I would like to clarify the Members of this august House that the above approved resources envelop fell short by ` 1,608 crore in Revised Estimates 2012-13. Government of India's Central Plan Assistance was curtailed to ` 579 crore against the approved amount of ` 620 crore. Apart from this, Government of India accorded permission to go for open market borrowings of ` 301.63 crore only against the approved limit of ` 500 crore and

for ` 154 crore as negotiated loan against the approved limit of ` 319 crore. I would like to inform this House that the proposal for Thane rehabilitation for ` 800 crore was submitted to Government of India as early as in August 2012. In spite of repeated persuasion, approval from Government of India was not received for this proposal till the end of the last financial year which had led to non-availing of the loan assistance from World Bank. Based on my request during the Annual Plan discussion 2012-13, Planning Commission agreed to allocate an ACA of ` 100 crore each for the Thirunallar Temple Town Project and for infrastructure facilities of Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute; whereas while communicating the scheme of financing, Planning Commission had included ` 200 crore under Normal Central Assistance instead of the agreed ACA. Because of this change, separate allocation of ` 100 crore each could not be given to the above projects

which has created slow down in the implementation. On the receipts front, Hon'ble Members are aware that the traders and industrialists have already expressed that the VAT rates in this Union Territory has been pegged at higher side and represented that the rates need to be reduced to increase the trade and business. In such a circumstance, my Government could not further increase the tax for more revenue mobilisation. Under Sales Tax, though an amount of ` 1,396 crore was projected as receipts, my Government was able to mobilise an amount of ` 1,287 crore only. Hence, the revenue receipts for Plan stood at ` 350 crore against the projected estimate of ` 736 crore. The reduction in Central Plan Assistance and revenue receipts along with belated approval for less borrowings forced my Government to arrive at a Plan size of ` 1,392 crore for the Revised Estimate 2012-13.

5. I would like to share in the august House, the problems faced by the Union Territory in getting various assistance from Government of India. As Members are aware, this Union Territory with legislature is neither covered in the Terms of Reference of Central Finance Commission nor included in the upcoming Union Territory Finance Commission to look after the devolution of funds for the Union Territories without legislature. Due to this peculiar situation, this Union Territory is not receiving any share of Central Taxes from Government of India. I have been repeatedly focusing this problem of non-devolution of funds in various forums / Central Government. Recently I have also written a letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister for kind intervention in the matter. Further, the Central Planning Commission has also assured to recommend our proposal favourably. I have placed a request with the Ministry of Finance to form a Committee of Experts to decide

on the quantum of taxes to be shared along with the methodology as an interim arrangement till such time constitutional amendment is made for inclusion in the Central Finance Commission. Our proposal has been endorsed by the Audit Team of Ministry of Home Affairs which visited Puducherry to audit the Public Accounts. In view of the non-inclusion in the Central Finance Commission, there are no devolution of funds for Panchayats and Municipalities and to augment their resources. I had written letters to Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance for a special package of ` 250 crore for which there has been no positive response.

6. I would like to inform the Members that the outstanding debt as on 31-3-2013 is ` 5,006 crore which is 30.28% of GSDP. But for the current year the outstanding loan as on 31-3-2014 will be around ` 5,609 crore which will be about 26.9% of GSDP.

I have requested Government of India for consolidation of loans taken by Union Territory and to have lower rate of interest so that the debt servicing will be reduced considerably. The decision of Government of India on the loan consolidation proposal is awaited. I would like to point out that the allowed outstanding debt as a percentage of GSDP permissible to States is 28%; whereas the Government of India stipulated 20% as a permissible limit for the Union Territories. I have also taken up to the Government of India for relooking into this aspect and bring at par with the States in order to avail more loans.

7. I would like to inform that over the years, the Union Territory has experienced unforeseen expenditure on account of natural calamities and court orders. Though the administration had submitted enough proposals seeking funds such as reimbursement of Thane expenditure (` 70 crore),

CST compensation (` 150 crore) and TANGEDCO arrear payment (` 150 crore), the non-plan gap grant approved and released for the last year is ` 513 crore by Government of India which is not adequate to meet the committed revenue expenditure. Necessary budgetary grants for these unanticipated expenditure are not provided in the Ministry of Home Affairs budget and grants are not received despite making several proposals. This has resulted in additional expenditure under Non-Plan thereby reducing the revenue receipts for Plan funding. However, my Government could be able to implement some important welfare schemes only.

8. Based on the difficulties faced in the financial front in the Annual Plan 2012-13, my Government decided to go for a realistic Plan size on the availability of the resources so that the same could be achieved without any shortfall. During the Annual Plan discussions held on 27-6-2013, Planning

Commission approved ` 2,000 crore for the Annual Plan 2013-14. The scheme of financing for the approved outlay is ` 783 crore as Central Assistance including ` 100 crore of Additional Central Assistance for Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project. The borrowings and negotiated loan are ` 611 crore (net) and Union Territories own resources pegged at ` 606 crore.

9. The Budget for 2013-14 is presented for an amount of ` 5,890 crore with a break-up of ` 2,000 crore for Plan, ` 3,750 crore for Non-Plan and ` 140 crore for Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other programmes. This consist of ` 5,013 crore of Revenue Receipts and ` 877 crore of Capital Receipts. The Revenue Expenditure is ` 4,965 crore and Capital Expenditure is ` 925 crore in the current financial year. The fiscal deficit in the budget as percentage of GSDP is 3%. The ratio of tax to GSDP is 10.90% and the interest payment to revenue

receipt ratio is 10.20%. These fiscal indicators are healthier and better than most of the States and are within the permissible limits. The per capita income of Puducherry has increased from ` 74,201 in 2007-08 to ` 1,12,986 in 2012-13.

10. I am happy to inform this august House that like the fiscal indicators, the Union Territory has good parameters in respect of socio-economic indicators also. The birth-rate is 16.7 (All India – 21.8); infant mortality rate is 19 (All India – 44) per thousand. The sex ratio is also one of the highest viz., 1,038 females for every 1,000 males (All India – 940); the literacy percentage as per 2011 census is 86.55% against the national average of 74%.

11. I would like to inform the Members in the current budget certain new initiatives have been proposed. The New Industrial Policy – 2013 will be notified shortly. Public Private Partnership (PPP)

projects in Departments of Tourism, Information Technology, Local Administration and Health will be initiated in the current financial year. Major proposals under JNNURM and RKVY will be submitted to Government of India at the earliest for availing more funds. The existing Growth Centre at Karaikal will be revitalised and the Gas Based Power Generation Plant at T.R. Pattinam will be revamped for higher production capacity. Efforts will be taken to connect Karaikal with the National Power Grid. The strengthening of distribution and transmission network will be taken up by converting the OHT lines to Underground Cable. Efforts will be made to expand the airport to bring bigger aircrafts.

AGRICULTURE

12. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 89.69 crore including ` 15 crore for RKVY. In view of the uneven distribution of rainfall during the North-East Monsoon and non-receipt of Cauvery

water, Karaikal region has been declared as drought hit area. ` 9.50 crore is provided as relief assistance to the drought affected farmers. Construction of farm ponds in poramboke land in Karaikal region will be taken up. Establishment of poly houses will be done to increase per unit productivity. It is proposed to implement a package for the urbanites of Puducherry region in providing inputs, planting materials, garden tools, etc. at a subsidised cost to encourage home gardening.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

13. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 21.51 crore. 50% subsidy will be provided for distribution of 30,000 chicks for dual purpose poultry. 80,000 artificial insemination for cattle will be done this year. It is targeted to distribute 5 layer pullets to 3,000 BPL farmers to encourage backyard poultry keeping. Taking into consideration, the need of live stock owners the fodder development

programme will be implemented again as a component of RKVY. A new livestock insurance will be implemented for milch animals with the assistance of Government of India. In order to have more emphasis on research and to obtain external funding, the Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences has been renamed as Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER). In the current academic year, ` 2 crore has been received from Government of India for taking up research projects. This is the first college to adopt Veterinary Council of India's syllabus. Proposal for obtaining accreditation for this Research Institute has been submitted to ICAR.

FISHERIES

14. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 38 crore. 3,180 crafts have been registered online till date against 3,689 number

of total crafts which will also be registered during the current year. Under the Government of India scheme of issuing Marine Fishers Identity Card (MFIC) 36,513 marine fishermen have been enumerated and 16,282 bio-metric cards issued. 668 mechanised boat operators will be assisted with reactivation charges at the rate of ` 20,000 for wooden mechanised boats and ` 10,000 for FRP boats.

15. Input subsidy will be granted to fresh water fish farmers at ` 5,000 per acre. The inland fish production will be increased from 3.5 MTs to 4.5 MTs per annum for which 250 acres will be covered under inland fish culture activity. Fishery requisites will be disbursed to fishermen through Fishermen Co-operative Societies at subsidised cost. Construction of the Fishing Harbour at Mahe will be completed during the current financial year. Efforts will be taken to construct a new quay opposite to the existing quay at the Thengaithittu Fishing Harbour with the

Central Assistance. The existing Fishing Harbour at Karaikal will be extended further. Pondicherry Fishermen and Fisheries Development Corporation will be established during the Current Financial Year. Instead of reimbursement of Sales Tax on HSD oil, it is proposed to give exemption for Sale Tax on HSD oil purchased from authorised diesel bunks to the registered fishing crafts owners on the spot.

COMMERCIAL TAXES

16. The revenue collected has shown a growth rate of 29.4% under VAT and 22.7% under CST during the last financial year. The total revenue collected during 2012-13 is ` 1,287 crore. The online payment service for the tax payer is now available through five Nationalised Banks. The dealers remitting tax of one lakh and above have to mandatorily remit through e-payment facilitating instant realisation. My Government has granted

exemption from payment of tax under the Puducherry Value Added Tax Act, 2007 to goods which are sold by canteen stores department to serving Defence Personnel and Ex-servicemen in Puducherry.

CO-OPERATION

17. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 42 crore. Financial assistance in the form of share capital and Grant-in-Aid is released to Village Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies, Co-operative Bank, Primary Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies, Consumer Co-operatives. The Pondicherry Co-operative Spinning Mill has restarted its production and the average production has increased to 9,500 kgs. of thread per day. All efforts are being made by the Government to increase the production and productivity in the Sugar Mill. My Government will take efforts to strengthen the sick Co-operative Societies.

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

18. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 2.10 crore. Under 'Greening Puducherry' campaign, 2.50 lakh seedlings are to be distributed through 54 institutions in Puducherry. A proposal at a cost of over ` 10 crore for 'Scientific Management of Oussudu Sanctuary' under National Wetland Conservation Programme has been submitted to Government of India for assistance. This project will be implemented in a phased manner in five years.

ELECTRICITY

19. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 80.44 crore. A 110/11 KV sub-station at Venkata Nagar, Puducherry for providing uninterrupted power supply to town distribution is under construction through Power Grid Corporation of India. Construction of 110/22 KV sub-station at Lawspet will be taken up. In order to improve the power supply in Mahe

region, it is proposed to bring the power presently availed from Kerala State Electricity Board into Regional Energy Accounting of the Southern Region. This arrangement would allow the Mahe region to avail the allotted power from Central Generating Stations. To improve the voltage profile and to cater to the load requirements of the rural areas, it is proposed to enhance the existing capacity and erection of additional power transformers in Thirubuvanaï, Kurumbapet and Villianur sub-stations. With the approval of JERC, we have revised the tariff which will bring more revenue to the Government and all efforts will be made to collect the arrears from HT / LT consumers.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY OF PUDUCHERRY (REAP)

20. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 3.70 crore. Mandatory use of solar water heater and energy conservation building code have

been incorporated in the building by-laws. A draft renewable energy vision and renewable energy policy 2025 will be notified. A consultant will be appointed to take up the Solar City Project. Setting up of 3 Solar Power Plants of 5 MW capacity each under PPP mode is under active consideration.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

21. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 4.15 crore. Under Phase-I of PSWAN scheme, 150 Government Offices have been connected already and 53 Government Offices including 30 offices of the Police Department will be brought under PSWAN connectivity in Phase-II. Under State Services Delivery Gateway and State Portal (SSDG-SP), 145 e-forms covering 15 departments have been developed. 73 e-forms relating to 11 departments are already available in the Portal and the remaining e-forms will be made available

during this year. Permanent Enrolment Centres for updation of Aadhaar has been setup in four Common Service Centres in Puducherry region. Four more centres (2 in Karaikal, one each in Mahe and Yanam) will be opened. An IT-SEZ in 25 acres of land in Mettupalayam, Puducherry region will be set up. Under the e-district project, work flow automation of 61 services covering 12 departments will be taken up for enabling online delivery of services.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

22. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 2.60 crore. Installation of online ambient air quality monitoring at Raja Theatre signal and Housing Board complex in Puducherry and three in Karaikal region will be set up with the assistance of Central Pollution Control Board. Highly pollution potential units are directed to install online monitoring

stations for assessing round the clock emission level. The Planetarium project and the sub-regional science centre will be completed and open to public. A comprehensive water policy and action plan on climate change will be released.

INDUSTRIES

23. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 45 crore. A new Industrial Policy will give priority to industries which are energy efficient, low water intensive eco-friendly, employment intensive, export oriented, sustaining on local resources, high technology and knowledge based. The procedure for issue of clearances under single window clearance will be streamlined. An IT enabled online submission and tracking of application will be rolled out shortly. In order to promote MSME sector, incentives like technology acquisition fund, skill enhancement fund, quality certification subsidy, intellectual property

protection support, market development support will be given to the new industries. A monitoring and consultative mechanism will be set up for curtailing procedural delays so as to promote industrial growth.

24. After my Government took over, the loss making Government undertakings have started to function with renewed vigour. We have requested Government of India to grant ` 500 crore as special grant to reactivate the Anglo-French Textiles Mill which is one of the oldest Mill and is not functioning now. My Government will take all necessary steps to revitalise the Mill as per the guidelines given by the Central Team which visited the Mill.

LABOUR AND LABOUR WELFARE

25. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 12.70 crore. A web enabled employment exchange portal has been taken up as one of the National e-governance project. The first phase viz.,

Module for Online Renewal of Registration has been launched. The second phase module for Online Registration will be launched during this year. As a part of skill development initiative, training on Modular Employable Skill Courses to 1,500 persons will be given in all the Government ITI's to meet the industrial requirements of skilled personnel. The Government ITI (Women), Vambakeerapalayam and Government ITI (Men), Karaikal have been taken up for upgradation by Government of India wherein training will be imparted in upgraded trades and additional blocks will be constructed. It is proposed to extend the Swalamban Yojana Scheme under National Pension System to the unorganised workers registered in the Puducherry Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board and Puducherry Unorganised Labourers Welfare Society. Construction workers enrolled in the Puducherry Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board will be issued loan for purchase of tools.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

26. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 68.20 crore. It is proposed to have GIS mapping and online payment for property tax. As per the directions of High Court, fresh delimitation of wards will be taken up. In order to augment the revenue to the municipalities, it is proposed to undertake construction of commercial complexes and multi level parking in municipal areas of Puducherry, Oulgaret, Karaikal through PPP mode. Puducherry Municipality proposes to renovate the Marie Building through World Bank assistance.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

27. The Plan allocation for School Education Department in the current financial year is ` 155.05 crore. In order to provide two sets of uniforms to the students of Government schools, an amount ` 10 crore has been provided in the budget.

` 10 crore of State share to SSA and ` 1 crore to RMSA are provided in the budget to purchase teaching aids, furniture, to impart training to teachers and giving special training to out of school children in the elementary / secondary / higher secondary schools. Setting up of an Expert Committee to prepare perspective plan and to examine feasibility to start CBSE pattern of education in all Government Schools will be proposed. Block Resource Centre will be functioning from this financial year for providing special training to differently abled students. It is proposed to construct mini stadia at Bahour and Koodapakkam. ` 1 crore has been budgeted for renovation of Rajiv Gandhi Stadium at Puducherry and to complete Karaikal Stadium, ` 3 crore has been allotted in the budget. Funds to an extent of ` 2 crore has been allotted for completion of remaining works of Mahe Stadium which will be handed over to Sports Authority of India. Moral education will be imparted to school students from this academic year. Presently there

are 13 central kitchens functioning in this territory. It is proposed to revise the existing menu of the mid-day meal scheme to provide the required nutrition based on the recommendations given by the Pondicherry University.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

28. The Plan allocation for Higher and Technical Education Department in the current financial year is ` 132 crore. The Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance scheme started with a view to ensure that no meritorious student is prevented on the grounds of financial constraints from the academic career in the field of medical / engineering courses is the flagship scheme of my government and we are committed to implement the scheme in a successful manner. Keeping this objective, an amount of ` 57 crore has been provided in this budget for payment of tuition fees.

29. Under the higher education fold, it is proposed to set up a committee for revamping the courses and to have a centralised placement cell for all the Arts and Science Colleges. It is proposed to construct buildings for the Arts and Science Colleges functioning under PONSHE society in a phased manner. During this year, construction of additional block for Dr. Ambedkar Polytechnic, Yanam and building for Indira Gandhi Arts and Science College, Puducherry will be taken up for which I have provided ` 2 crore each in the budget.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

30. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 197.50 crore. I am happy to inform that Puducherry has been declared “Filaria free State” by the Ministry of Health and given special award. We are already a Leprosy free State. The communicable diseases in the Union Territory are

kept under control and conquered through permanent and targeted programmes implemented by the Health department which has made this achievement possible. Under the prevention of non-communicable diseases, screening of the whole population for diabetes will be taken up in a phased manner. Starting of diabetes registry and supply of drugs through all peripherals health institutions will be done. In the current year, for taking up infrastructure works for Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, ` 25 crore has been provided. Construction of Trauma Care Unit at General Hospital, Mahe will be taken up. Remodelling of the existing old NRHM building for conducting a permanent health exhibition will be taken up. As a part of Rural Health Mission activity, 5,000 pregnant mothers (Janani Suraksha Yojana) will be given assistance. Through the immunization programme, 36,250 BCG vaccines and 14,500 DPT (3rd dose) will be administered; 15,000 cataract surgeries, 14,500

IOL implantation will be done. Construction of new buildings for the sub-centres at Sandai Pudukuppam, Andiarpalayam and Thattanchavady will be taken up. Construction of new building for the Community Health Centre at Palloor, Mahe and establishment of a Primary Health Centre at Guirampet and new sub-centre at Savitri Nagar, Yanam will be taken up.

INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE AND HOMEOPATHY

31. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 4.80 crore. Special ayurvedha therapies like Panchakarma, Naturopathy and Yoga units with modern facilities will be made available to foreign tourists for promoting medical tourism. Opening of separate OPD for senior citizens in General Hospitals and community health centres will be done. By utilising the funds under CSS, herbal / medicinal plant garden will be set up in all regions.

TOURISM

32. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 63.80 crore. The projects under the central assistance such as Art and Craft Village at Murungapakkam, beautification of Chunnambar, renovation of Botanical Garden in Puducherry, development of Nallambal lake at Karaikal, development of Kottucherry Tamaraikulam pond and Nedungadu Panchacharam tank as tourist spots, heritage precinct, walkway Phase-II in Mahe, eco-cottages, botanical garden in Yanam will be taken up during the current year. The process of implementation of PPP projects under the Tourism department such as entertainment centre at old distillery premises in Puducherry and projects at Manapet will be initiated. To develop beach tourism activities like musical fountain, laser show, food courts, cultural programmes and adventure sports activities are proposed to be initiated with private participation.

The Tower project in Yanam is likely to be completed in the current year. Destination promotion will be undertaken with full vigour by going in an integrated media campaign both nationally and internationally.

33. An amount of ` 25 crore has been allocated in the current year for completing the ongoing works under Thirunallar Temple Town Project. To take up additional works viz., comprehensive water supply system and underground sewerage project with treatment plant, solid waste management exclusively for Thirunallar Town the Government will be approaching for central funding under various Ministries of Government of India.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

34. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 198.88 crore. Adequate funds have been provided in the budget for resuming Kamarajar Housing Scheme. Under the Slum Upgradation

Programme, it is proposed to provide roads, drains and other basic amenities in the slum areas. Improvement works in the New Bus Stand, installation of mini / high mast lights in important road junctions, will be taken up under the Capital Development Programme.

35. ` 60 crore of central assistance under JNNURM and ` 50 crore of State share which includes ` 30 crore of negotiated loan to be availed will be utilised for the works of laying of 100 kms. of sewer lines and conveyance system in Mudaliarpeta, Nellithope, Lawspet, Thattanchavady, Muthirapalayam, Reddiarpalayam and Moolakulam zones and for the ongoing works of sewerage treatment plants at Lawspet, Dubrayapeta and Kanaganeri. The balance infrastructure works will be taken up in respect of 168 dwelling units which were handed over at Kuruchikuppam. 800 dwelling units out of the 1,136 dwelling units at Lambert Saravanan Nagar,

Reddiarpalayam will be completed. In Karaikal, rehabilitation of water supply system in core urban areas at a cost of over ` 150 crore and comprehensive sewerage project at a cost of over ` 175 crore are proposed to be submitted to Government of India for availing funds under JNNURM.

PUBLIC WORKS

36. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 319.50 crore. DPRs for the rehabilitation of water supply system in the peri-urban areas of Puducherry at a cost of over ` 300 crore will be sent to Government of India shortly to avail funds under JNNURM. This project has 11 packages which is inclusive of augmentation of water supply to Puducherry town by utilizing the surface water from the Oussudu lake at a cost of over ` 45 crore. Augmentation of water supply scheme to Sanarapet and adjoining areas in Muthirapalayam and

Viswanathan Nagar and adjoining areas are proposed at a cost of over ` 20 crore. Construction of bridge on the downstream side across river Thirumalairajanar in Karaikal Town on NH 45-A section is taken up. ` 3.50 crore has been allotted towards land acquisition for the western bye-pass Phase-II in Karaikal. Land acquisition for forming inner ring road on the southern side of Thirunallar Town is also proposed to be taken up.

37. Construction of high level bridge across Uppar drain at Puducherry, anicut and high level bridge across Sankaraparani connecting Kaikalapet and Suthukeny are proposed to be taken up in the current financial year. By availing Central Road Fund, reconstruction of bridge at Uruvaiyar, Mangalam, providing improvements to road from Ariyur to Abishegapakkam connecting NH 45-A at Thavalakuppam junction is proposed in the current year. Efforts will be taken to restart the construction of Kamarajar

Manimandapam in Puducherry. My Government intend to take up the project interlinking French channel in Yanam region at a cost of over ` 20 crore.

TRANSPORT

38. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 13.50 crore. In order to ease out traffic congestion in the Puducherry - Cuddalore sector, it is proposed to take up laying of 100 feet road parallel to the newly proposed railway line connecting Puducherry and Cuddalore. Identification of the land for the proposed railway line has been done and submitted to Railway Authorities for concurrence. On receipt of approval, land acquisition will be taken up simultaneously for the railway line and the 100 feet road. It is proposed to construct a Regional Transport Office Complex at Keezhavely, Karaikal at an estimated cost of around ` 3 crore.

ADI-DRAVIDAR WELFARE

39. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 90.50 crore. As a welfare State committed to the growth and development of people, efforts are taken in the budget to improve the living conditions of the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of the society through the programmes implemented by Adi-dravidar Welfare Department. Scheduled Caste beneficiaries will be granted subsidy of ` 4 lakh each so as to help them to have pucca shelter.

40. The Scheduled Caste Sub Plan is prepared as an integral part of the Annual Plan and Adi-dravidar Welfare Department is the nodal department in monitoring the SCSP programmes. As per the 2011 census, the percentage of Scheduled Caste population to total population is 15.73%. According to the percentage an amount of

` 314.60 crore has been allocated in 19 departments for implementing various Scheduled Caste Welfare Schemes.

SOCIAL WELFARE

41. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 55 crore. As a part of social security, strengthening of child protection units at Karaikal will be taken up. Ananda Ranga Pillai Government Special School for Visually Challenged and Hearing Impaired has produced 100% result in SSLC examination during two consecutive academic years. It is proposed to grant ` 1 lakh to the school and the special award to teachers who produced cent percent result.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

42. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 153 crore. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has passed a

resolution to strengthen and restructure the ICDS scheme in a Mission Mode. The ICDS Mission will have State Mission Steering Group and State Empowered Programme Committee. Steering Group will be headed by me and will be apex body for providing direction, policy and guidance for implementation. Empowered Committee will be headed by Chief Secretary which will be the highest technical body for planning, supervising and monitoring the effective implementation of ICDS.

43. Under Old Age Pension Scheme presently, 48,229 beneficiaries are paid financial assistance through Aadhaar Payment Bridge under the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme. The remaining beneficiaries will be brought under Aadhaar Payment mode in the current year. Government is constantly deliberating with the banking sector to improve the disbursement of pension through micro ATMs and business correspondence so that old age and disabled

beneficiaries are not put into any kind of inconvenience due to the introduction of Aadhaar mode payment.

REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

44. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ` 108.56 crore. The National Land Records Modernisation Programme (NLRMP) brings the Departments of Survey and Land Records, Registration and Revenue under one roof by connecting them electronically through which a registration of immovable property is reflected on real-time basis in the revenue records and a patta copy can be issued across the counter at Firka level. As a prelude, 70% computerisation of land records has been completed which will be uploaded. Six numbers of Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) receivers to receive all type of communications will be installed in Puducherry and outlying regions. Automatic Weather

Stations will be erected in 8 taluk / sub-taluks to get information on Wind, Rain and Temperature directly.

45. As per the directions of Government of India, the State and District Authorities for Disaster Management in Puducherry and Karaikal have been created. State Disaster / Response Funds are proposed to be created to meet the expenses towards emergency response and relief. The District Disaster Management / Response Fund will be created to fund the small projects on mitigation of disaster and to meet the expenditure on immediate response to disaster.

46. Based on the decision taken at the Empowered Group of Ministers meeting during December 2011, a Disaster Risk Reduction Project of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry was prepared. This includes majority of the unfinished ETRP works under other Risk Reduction / Mitigation measures.

The prepared project was sent to Government of India and after consideration by the designated Screening Committee this proposal was sent to World Bank. The World Bank team conducted appraisal visit and signed negotiations in May 2013. This project has been approved by the Board of the World Bank. The anticipated project cost is ` 349 crore out of which World Bank share will be ` 244.30 crore. An amount of ` 100 crore has been provided in the budget. The project duration is five years.

EXCISE

47. An interactive web based software namely 'Puduvai Kalal' has been developed with the technical support of National Informatics Centre (NIC) to facilitate monitoring of receipts and collection of excise duties. This web based software will also enable the licence holders to apply for various permits through online and remittance of duties by e-payment mode.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

48. An amount of ` 74.05 crore has been allocated under non-plan to this Department. The Department is in the process of issuing Bio-metric Smart Ration Cards to all the ration card holders. The card holders in the Puducherry and Karaikal regions will be supplied single boiled rice during the current Financial Year.

GENERAL

49. In the Union Territory of Puducherry, 10,44,149 Aadhaars have been generated which is 84% of the total population. In respect of Puducherry region, the total Aadhaars generated 8,93,685 which is 94.40% of the total population. e-Aadhaar facilities have been provided to the public through Common Service Centres so that the public are not put into inconvenience in collection of Aadhaar card. In view of the maximum Aadhaar enrolment, the Union Territory is able to implement successfully under Phase-I, 16 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the

state scheme of Old Age Pension under the Aadhaar payment mode. Under Phase-II of the DBT implementation, Yanam region has been identified for the roll out.

50. During the current year, it is proposed to recruit 420 home guards in the Police Department. For strengthening the coastal security, six patrolling motor boats for coastal police station will be inducted.

51. In order to revitalise Tourism and improve the trade and commerce activities in this Union Territory, I propose to rationalise the tax rates of some of the items under State Excise and VAT as indicated below :

VALUE ADDED TAX			
Sl. No.	Name of the commodity	Present rate %	Proposed rate %
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and weedicides.	1	Exempted
2	Footwear costing less than ` 200	5	Exempted

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3	All kinds of cooked food including sweets, savories and mineral water.	10	2
4	All kinds of two wheelers	10	8
5	Generators	10	5
6	Wet grinders	10	5
7	PVC pipe for agricultural purpose	5	3
8	Plastic furniture and unbranded steel furniture.	10	5
9	School bags	14.5	5
10	Edible oil, vegetable oil, oil cake and deoiled cake.	3	1
11	Medical equipments	5	3
12	Building materials namely timber, plywood, hardware items, electrical goods, paints, sanitarywares and fittings, glasses, tiles, marbles and granites.	10	8
13	Building materials sold by the Puducherry Co-operative Building Centre.	10	Exempted

STATE EXCISE

A. Indian Made Foreign Liquor (excluding wine)

(i) Excise Duty

Sl. No.	Declared price per case containing 8.64 / 9 / 12 bulk litres (In Rupees)	Excise Duty per proof litre (In Rupees)
1	Upto 399	63
2	From 400 to 599	73
3	600 and above	80

(ii) Additional Excise Duty

Sl. No.	Declared price per case containing 8.64 / 9 / 12 bulk litres (In Rupees)		Additional Excise Duty per bulk litre (In Rupees)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	From	To	
1	Upto	399	30
2	400	449	40
3	450	499	50
4	500	549	52
5	550	599	55
6	600	699	61
7	700	799	66

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
8	800	899	71
9	900	999	76
10	1,000	1,099	81
11	1,100	1,399	91
12	1,400	1,699	107
13	1,700	1,999	122
14	2,000 and above		181

B. Wine

(i) Excise Duty : ` 10 per bulk litre

(ii) Additional Excise Duty :

Sl. No.	Declared price per case containing 8.64 / 9 / 12 bulk litres (In Rupees)		Additional Excise duty per bulk litre (In Rupees)
	From	To	
1	Upto	799	34
2	800	999	38
3	1,000	1,499	51
4	1,500	1,999	71
5	2,000 and above		99

52. I am happy to state that within the available means and under the circumstances as explained, a sincere attempt has been made in the Budget of 2013-14 to meet the expectations of the various sections of the society. I would like to once again reiterate that Union Territory of Puducherry which is cruising through the available resources to implement various welfare schemes require a structural change in the status of the Territory, so as to bring more revenue to the Territory. I would assure this august House that I will tirelessly pursue to achieve the goal.

53. I would like to place on record that my Government has put in all efforts to provide a transparent administration with financial stability. I place the budget for the year 2013-14 before this House and solicit the approval of the Members in this regard.

VANAKKAM !