

BUDGET SPEECH
2014 – 2015

“All living beings in the world look to rain on the conditions of their happy life. Similarly, all the subjects in a State look to the King's rule for their happiness in life”.

-KURAL

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Budget for the year 2014-15. The Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2014-15 are being circulated to Hon'ble Members of this august House.

2. I am presenting this budget with the blessings and the way shown by Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, to the people of Union Territory of Puducherry who have given whole hearted support to my Government. As always, I promise to this House and to the

Hon'ble Members that my Government will continue to work for the betterment of the people of this Union Territory.

3. It gives me great pleasure to announce that in order to fulfill the long pending wish of people of Puducherry, my Government has decided to declare 1st November as "Puducherry Liberation Day – Puducherry Viduthalai Naal" and it will be a Public Holiday.

4. Starting on a positive note, I am happy to inform this august House that the Union Territory has good parameters in respect of socio-economic indicators. The birth-rate is 16.1 (All India – 21.8); infant mortality rate is 19 (All India – 44) per thousand. The sex ratio is also one of the highest viz., 1,037 females for every 1,000 males (All India – 940); the literacy percentage as per 2011 census is 86% against the national average of 74%. The GSDP

of Union Territory of Puducherry was ₹ 21,061 crore in 2013-14, an increase of 25.6% over the previous year. In 2014-15, the GSDP is projected to be ₹ 25,819 crore which will be an increase of 22.6% over 2013-14.

5. We had decided to go for a realistic Plan size based on the availability of resources from 2013-14 onwards so that the same could be achieved without any shortfall. I had presented a budget of ₹ 2,040 crore for 2013-14. Based on the actual resource position, the Revised Estimate was fixed at ₹ 1,855 crore, of which Externally Aided Project of ₹ 100 crore could not be released by the Government of India. Against the Revised Estimate, we were able to achieve an all-time high expenditure of ₹ 1,665 crore as actual expenditure which works out to 89.71% in the Revised Annual Plan 2013-14.

6. For the Annual Plan 2014-15, the Planning Commission has approved an outlay of ₹ 2,400 crore. The scheme of financing for the approved outlay is ₹ 626 crore under Normal Central Assistance, ₹ 188 crore under Additional Central Assistance for Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project and ₹ 525 crore for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Grants. From the current year 2014-15 onwards, the Government of India has restructured the existing CSS into 66 schemes. The Plan assistance under the CSS will be classified as Central Assistance to State Plan. It has also been decided to transfer all the Central Assistance through the Consolidated Fund of Union Territory in a phased manner from this year onwards.

7. Now, I shall present department - wise proposals for 2014-15.

AGRICULTURE

8. The Plan allocation in the current financial year of Agriculture is ₹ 102.99 crore. Integrated Farming Systems will be promoted by providing subsidy to the commodity Interest Groups @ ₹ 5.00 lakh each. Under RKVY, it is proposed to provide Sugarcane Harvesting Machine and infrastructural facilities for Hi-tech Sugarcane Nursery to M/s. Pondicherry Cooperative Sugar Mill. It is proposed to distribute harvesting machine, planting machine and weeding machine at 50% subsidy to the Agriculture Marketing Committees. Besides, a Committee has been constituted to examine and study the revival package for Pondicherry Agro Service and Industries Corporation (PASIC) which will submit its report shortly. During the current year, laying of 23 kms. of underground pipeline and distribution of 46 micro irrigation sets are proposed. It is proposed to distribute agricultural tools and implements to the landless agricultural labourers who have been trained

on the operation and maintenance of the agricultural machineries by The Pondicherry Agricultural Workers' Welfare Society.

9. It is proposed to provide infrastructural support for the Puducherry Market Committee for construction of market yards at Koonichampet, Kanniakoil and Maducarai. The Hydrology Project Phase-II has been successfully completed in May 2014 and the Government of India has conveyed its support to Hydrology Project Phase - III, for extending Hydrological Information System, as a first step towards setting up of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Besides, efforts will be made to make PAJANCOA, Karaikal as a Central Agriculture University.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

10. An amount of ₹ 21.00 crore has been earmarked to this Department under Plan. In the Union Territory of Puducherry in order to sustain the growth

of livestock and livestock products, especially milk, special emphasis is given to increase the livestock so as to achieve the target of 47,500 metric tones of milk production. Under RKVY scheme it is targeted to distribute one milch cow to 1,000 Below Poverty Line farmers at 50% subsidy. By way of integrating the benefits of RKVY and the State Plan Scheme, 200 SC Below Poverty Line women head of family will be distributed with one milch cow at free of cost, and further 250 SC Below Poverty Line beneficiaries will be distributed with a unit of 5 female goats and a male goat at free of cost for meat production. The National Livestock Mission (a Centrally Sponsored Scheme) will be started in the Union Territory of Puducherry from this year under which Fodder Development Programmes. Livestock Insurance Scheme and Poultry Development Schemes will be implemented.

11. The target for artificial insemination for cattle has been fixed as 80,000 for this year and the healthy crossbred female calves born through artificial insemination will be awarded 6,000 cash prizes. In order to control the infertility in milch cows, the cattle infertility camps will be conducted and targeted to provide free treatment for 2,000 animals.

12. Compensation will be provided for the uninsured animals like cows, buffaloes, bullocks, if happened to die or disabled in accident / disease. To encourage backyard poultry keeping, 50% subsidy will be provided for distribution of 30,000 numbers of dual purpose poultry. Below Poverty Line families will be distributed with 5,000 numbers turkey poults at 50% subsidy in this year. In order to improve the egg production at the backyard, it is targeted to distribute 5 layer pullets at free of cost to 3,000 Below Poverty Line farmers.

FISHERIES

13. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 54.91 crore. Subsidy amounting to ₹ 30,000 @ ₹ 10,000 per acre will be granted for covering 3 acres for L. Vannamei prawn culture. To augment marine fish production by venturing into deep sea, 10 fishermen will be granted with 50% subsidy upto ₹ 11 lakh each subject to a ceiling of ₹ 15 lakh amounting to ₹ 1.50 crore for procurement of Steel Mechanized boats. It is proposed to reimburse an amount of ₹ 2.83 crore towards the sales tax on HSD oil procured by registered boat owners for the previous year. 60% subsidy will be granted to fishermen for purchase of FRP Vallam with nets, procurement of Wooden Mechanized Boats and purchase of Wooden Navas. During the lean season, relief assistance of ₹ 200 per family will be enhanced to ₹ 1,000 per family covering 20,400 families of

Union Territory of Puducherry. A feasibility study for construction of fishing harbour at T.R. Pattinam will be done.

14. An amount of ₹ 1.00 crore worth of fishery requisites will be supplied to fishermen through Fishermen Co-operative Societies at 50% subsidized cost. 75% of the annual premium paid by the registered mechanized boat owners towards insuring their boats to a tune of ₹ 28 lakh will be reimbursed as subsidy during the current financial year.

15. Ice box will be distributed at free of cost to fish vendors. In order to safeguard the livelihood of local fishermen community, the dredging of Ariyankuppam river mouth at Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹ 5 crore and dredging of Arasalar river mouth, Karaikal at an estimated cost of ₹ 3 crore is under progress. A "Karaikal Fishing Harbour Management Society" will be established at Karaikal in order to maintain the harbour.

COMMERCIAL TAXES

16. During the current financial year 2014-15, upto August 2014, around ₹ 399 crore has been collected under the Puducherry Value Added Tax (PVAT) Act, 2007 and ₹ 119 crore has been collected under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. The total revenue collected upto August 2014 is ₹ 518 crore. At present, the dealers registered under the PVAT have to renew their registration every year by paying the prescribed fees. In order to simplify the tax administration, it is proposed to introduce renewal of registration every three years. Also, for the dealers who are paying tax under the Composition Scheme, it is proposed to introduce Quarterly Returns *in lieu* of the existing monthly returns. Further, it is proposed to enhance the turnover limit for filing of Yearly Audit Report from the existing ₹ 50 lakh to ₹ 1 crore. To augment Human Resource in the Department, eight persons including two women

candidates have been recruited to the post of Assistant Commercial Tax Officer. In response to the demands of the traders in Puducherry, setting up of a "Traders Welfare Board" will be considered.

COOPERATION

17. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 40.75 crore. The Government will implement the Revival, Reform and Restructuring package for handloom weavers which will benefit the apex weaver society and primary weavers' co-operative societies. As a joint venture, The Pondicherry Cooperative Sugar Mills will initiate action, with the technical support and in collaboration with Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., to set up a bagasse based co-generation plant of 20 MW capacity and take steps to establish a Distillery plant of 30 KPLD in collaboration with Puducherry Distilleries Ltd. The Pondicherry State Cooperative Housing Federation

will construct 135 flats in Muthupillaipalayam village for the welfare of members of the Primary Housing Cooperative Societies. To strengthen the infrastructure and for augmentation of processing capacity, a project at a cost of ₹ 3.34 crore in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central Government and the Pondicherry Cooperative Milk Producers' Union is proposed. At present 75% subsidy is being given to the milk producers through Cooperative Milk Producers' Union who supply more than 5 litre per day, instead of this, it is proposed to give ₹ 6 per litre as incentive to them. This will enhance the milk supply to PONLAIT.

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

18. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 2.90 crore. In order to enhance the green cover, two lakh tree seedlings will be planted along the road side, tank bund, educational institutions, industries and farmers' land. 40 hectare of land area

belonging to public and private will be covered under the Social Forestry scheme. The agro forestry will be developed for the benefit of the agriculturists, the mangroves in Yanam will be restored and it is proposed to create an artificial reef at a cost of ₹ 1 crore each.

ELECTRICITY

19. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 67 crore. Approval of the Standing Committee of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been obtained for erection of 230 KV lines from Neyveli Lignite Corporation Thermal Power Station to Karaikal to bring the Karaikal region under Regional Energy Accounting of Southern region and to avail power supply from Central Generating Stations. Establishment of 230 / 110 KV Auto Sub-station has been envisaged. This will help Karaikal region to meet the growth in power demand.

20. Under the cable conversion works, it has been proposed to lay 3.2 kms. of high tension underground cables and 19 kms. of low tension underground cables and to convert 700 numbers of low tension over head services and 85 numbers of street lights into underground cable system. Besides, it has also been proposed to energize 5 new 11 KV distribution transformers and to enhance 5 numbers of existing 11 KV distribution transformers to higher capacity, by March 2015.

21. As a part of the Demand Side Management, all the existing Street Lights are proposed to be replaced with Energy Efficient LED street lights. This would result in reduction of energy consumption of street lights and provide an improved aesthetic look which would increase the tourism potential. It is proposed to lay 5 numbers of 11 KV underground cable feeders for a total length of 16 km. at a cost of about ₹ 12 crore from the newly commissioned

Venkata Nagar Sub-station to improve reliability of power supply in and around town areas. In order to provide uninterrupted power supply, it is proposed to establish a new 110 / 22 KV Sub-station at Thondamanatham and Lawspet. Further, in order to meet the growing demand it is proposed to erect 25 MVA capacity transformers in Kurumbapet and Villianur Sub-stations. After the completion of this work it is anticipated that the people of Puducherry will have uninterrupted and quality power supply.

22. To bring down the power Transmission and Distribution (T & D) losses from the present level of 12.5 % to 9.2 %, the Electricity Department has proposed to execute the improvement works at an estimated cost of ₹ 700 crore in four years' period which includes the major works of establishment of 230 / 110 KV Sub-station at Karaikal, augmentation of the Transformer capacity at Villianur and Bahour 230 KV Sub-stations, laying of 110 KV underground

cables to the proposed Lawspet Sub-station, establishment of Sub-station at Thavalakuppam, etc. A preliminary Project Report has been prepared which is under scrutiny of the line Ministry of Government of India.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

23. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 12.50 crore. Information Communication Technology (ICT) Training Academy with two computer labs and fully equipped class rooms for imparting training to officials, students, etc. has been inaugurated. I.C.T. Academy, which is serving as a Finishing School, will equip more number of students with skills necessary for getting jobs. This will enhance their employability.

24. Under the National e-Governance Action Plan (NeGAP), National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) for connecting 98 Gram Panchayats of Union Territory

of Puducherry to the Block headquarters is already under implementation. NOFN is envisaged to provide high speed broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and to share the bandwidth among all eligible service providers to enable the services in the rural areas. My Government proposes to establish an Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) which would aid the growth of the Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector, help development of entrepreneurial ecosystem, drive innovation and catalyze the economic growth of the Union Territory by increasing employment opportunities and tax revenues. I.T. hardware manufacturing will be encouraged in the Union Territory of Puducherry by giving incentives in consultation with Government of India. In order to guarantee time bound delivery of specified services to the citizens within the time limit prescribed, my Government proposes to bring a Service Delivery Act.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

25. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 2.25 crore. Online Ambient Air Quality Monitoring with Display System at prominent places in the Union Territory of Puducherry will be established. Sub Regional Science Centre and Planetarium Project will be completed and opened shortly in Puducherry. It is proposed to construct a Sub Regional Science Centre - *cum* - Planetarium in the Temple Town of Thirunallar at Karaikal as was done at Puducherry, at a cost of ₹ 5 crore.

INDUSTRIES

26. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 46.29 crore. A modern tool room consisting of infrastructure facilities and business processes including latest machinery and equipment to design and manufacture quality tools, testing facility and for conducting training programmes confirming to

international standards will be setup in Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹ 100 crore with the financial assistance of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India. A Rural Economic Zone (REZ) will be established in an area of 25 acres at Polagam, Karaikal. The REZ would be provided with infrastructure facilities like road, water supply, drainage and electricity. The area will be developed into plots to an extent of 3,000 to 5,000 sq. ft. each, which could be allotted to 100 – 120 Micro and Small Industries on rental basis.

27. The non-availability of timely and adequate credit at reasonable interest rate hinders the growth potential of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). To mitigate such bottlenecks, Union Territory Government proposes to contribute ₹ 10 crore to the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), which is jointly owned by Ministry of MSME and SIDBI. CGTMSE is enabling the

entrepreneurs of this Union Territory to avail collateral free credit facilities upto ₹ 1 crore. This will be in addition to the ₹ 90 crore credit guarantee limit which will be approved by the CGTMSE. Thus, a separate Corpus Fund of ₹ 100 crore will be earmarked for this purpose and PIPDIC will be the Nodal Agency to operate this scheme.

28. In order to give a boost to exports from Puducherry, the following infrastructure will be provided with financial assistance of Government of India under the Assistance to States for infrastructure Development of Exports (ASIDE) scheme viz., (i) Deepening of Ariyankuppam mouth and channel (ii) Setting up of Trade Centre (iii) Construction of 2 Ready Built up Factory (RBF) and (iv) Upgradation of infrastructure in the Industrial Estates. Puducherry has been notified as a Brownfield EMC and it will be set up in Puducherry jointly by the Departments of Industries & Commerce and Information Technology. Non Polluting

Green Mega Industrial Projects with an estimated cost of a minimum ₹ 200 crore, creating an employment for minimum 250 persons will be encouraged. If they satisfy both the investment and the minimum employment criteria net local taxes paid by the unit will be given as investment promotion subsidy / soft loan for 10 years from the date of commercial production. This is subject to a ceiling of 80 % of investment made in Eligible Fixed Assets within the investment period in such Industrial Projects.

LABOUR AND LABOUR WELFARE

29. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 13 crore. To provide better infrastructure facilities to the trainees, the work of construction of additional class rooms at an estimated cost of ₹ 60 lakh has been awarded to Public Works

Department, Karaikal. "State Social Security Board for Unorganized Workers" would be constituted in the Union Territory of Puducherry to ensure social security and welfare of unorganised workers. As a first step, it is proposed to frame the Puducherry Unorganised Workers Social Security Rules 2014 under the Central Act of "Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008" during the current year. It is proposed to introduce "Flexi Memorandum of Understanding" with the Government ITIs and nearby industries for training the students based on the specific need of industries so as to make the trained students readily employable. With a view to improve the Ease of Doing Business in this Union Territory by simplifying the inspection process under the Boilers Act, 1923, it is proposed to introduce "Self-certification Scheme" for inspection and certification of boilers which are less than 1,000 sq. mts. of heating surface by Third Party Agencies.

30. It is proposed to enhance the educational financial assistance extended to the beneficiaries of Puducherry Building and Other Construction Workers Board for M.B.B.S / B.D.S. courses (Through CENTAC), from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 1,00,000 for B.E. / B.Tech. courses (Through CENTAC) from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 50,000 for Diploma in Engineering Courses from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 20,000 for PG Degree courses from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 4,000 for degree courses, from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 2,000 for PG diploma courses from ₹ 1,500 to ₹ 3,000 and for Diploma courses from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 2,000.

31. The wards of the construction workers who have secured top three ranks at the State Level and Regional Level in the Higher Secondary course or its equivalent examinations are eligible for cash benefit. It is proposed to increase the State Level Cash benefit for the first rank from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 1,00,000 for second rank from ₹ 40,000 to ₹ 80,000 and for third rank from ₹ 30,000 to ₹ 60,000.

32. The Regional Level Cash benefit will be increased for the first rank from ₹ 30,000 to ₹ 60,000 for second rank from ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 40,000 and for third rank from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 20,000.

33. To provide pension to the construction workers and unorganized Labourers Swavalamban Pension Scheme will be implemented in Union Territory of Puducherry this year. Under this scheme, a minimum of ₹ 1,000 per month will be paid to 39,470 construction workers and 24,799 unorganized labourers who have attained 60 years of age. The contribution to be paid by the eligible construction workers will be borne by the Construction Workers Board and for unorganized labourers by the Government. It is proposed to extend loan for purchase of tools to the construction workers who have enrolled in the Construction Workers' Welfare Board.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

34. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 64 crore. Marie building at Beach Road, Puducherry will be renovated. GIS mapping and on-line payment will be introduced for improving the collection of Property tax. Stray dog menace has become a cause of concern. In order to curb it and safeguard the interests of the public it is proposed to implement Animal Birth Control (ABC) and administer Anti Rabies Vaccines to over 32,000 stray dogs as per the guidelines of Animal Welfare Board and it will be implemented through NGOs recognized by the Animal Welfare Board at a cost of ₹ 1 crore. It is proposed to modernize the existing Slaughter House at Attupatti, Puducherry Municipality at the cost of over ₹ 5 crore. It is also proposed to construct a new Modern Slaughter House either in the limits of Oulgaret Municipality or Villianur Commune Panchayat at a cost of over ₹ 10 crore. A new fish market with

modern facilities like cold storage with 110 shops built at a cost of about ₹ 14 crore near ECR has been inaugurated. It is proposed to renovate the existing Nehru Market in Karaikal at a cost of ₹ 5 crore. It is proposed to construct modern fish market at Karaikal this year. In addition, a state-of-the-art garbage disposal plant at a cost of ₹ 205 crore is also proposed in Puducherry by the Local Administration Department.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

35. During 2013-14, 10.85 lakh mandays' employment was provided under MGNREGA by incurring an expenditure of ₹ 11.36 crores. Similarly, during this year, it is proposed to provide 12.19 lakhs mandays' employment. Further, it is proposed to increase the wages of Grama Rozgar Sevak and other category of staffs engaged for implementation of MGNREGA by ₹ 2,000 per month which will be effective from 1-4-2014.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

36. The Plan allocation for School Education Department in the current financial year is ₹ 152.86 crore. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) scheme will be implemented in 166 Government High Schools and Government Higher Secondary Schools in a phased manner. Cash award to Government High and Higher Secondary Schools which produced 100% pass percentage in urban areas and 90% in rural areas in SSLC/HSC examination has been raised from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 2 lakh and is being paid. For the first time the Common evaluation is being done for correction of Plus two papers and SSLC papers in Puducherry itself. The construction of a multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall at Lawspet at an estimated cost of ₹ 6 crore has been commenced and will be completed during the current financial year. It is proposed to upgrade Government

Primary School at Sanyasikuppam as Middle School, Government Middle School at Kodathur as High School and Government High School at Alangkuppam as Higher Secondary School. The menu of the Mid Day Meals scheme has been revised to provide required quantities of protein and nutrition. To this effect, two eggs per week will be supplied to school students studying from Pre-Primary to Higher Secondary in Government and Government Aided Schools under this scheme. In order to promote sports in rural areas and to encourage women participation in sports competitions, rural sports competitions and women sports competitions are proposed. Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants will be installed in all the schools for safe and clean drinking water to school children. Separate toilets for boys and girls will be provided in the schools where ever required.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

37. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 133.21 crore. Appropriate action will be taken to get accreditation from the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) for the educational institutions. Action will also be taken to get permanent affiliation from the Pondicherry University for all the courses of Arts Colleges by improving the infrastructure facilities and the quality of teaching. The construction of Women's Hostel in Polytechnic College, Karaikal will be completed. Buildings will be constructed for Indira Gandhi College for Arts and Science, Kathirkamam, Puducherry, Rajiv Gandhi Arts and Science College, Thavalakuppam, Kasthuribai College for Women, Villianur, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Karaikal and Avvaiyar Government College for Women, Karaikal. Action will be taken to start Skill Development Colleges with job oriented courses at Bahour in Puducherry and Nedungadu in Karaikal.

ART AND CULTURE

38. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 11 crore. The renovation work of Mahakavi Bharathiar Memorial Museum is in advance stage of completion and it will be opened shortly. Romain Rolland Library, Puducherry and S.R. Ranganathan Public Library, Karaikal will be computerised in collaboration with Rajaram Mohanroy Library Foundation, Kolkata. Also, action for preparation of DPR for the two museums by INTACH and renewal of MoU with INTACH for 5 years has been initiated. It is proposed to renovate 18 Government owned heritage buildings at Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 80 crore. The 125th Birth Centenary of Pavender Bharathidasan will be celebrated in a befitting manner.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

39. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 237 crore. For the Multi-Speciality Hospital, Karaikal, DPR will be prepared and the Hospital will

be constructed in the land already acquired. A new building for the Nursing (GNM) School in Karaikal will be constructed at a cost of ₹ 10 crore. A new programme called 'Health Care for Elderly' will be launched by strengthening the Geriatric Ward and Out-patient Department in the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute at a cost of ₹ 1.80 crore and separate wards in the Community Health Centres will be opened. New buildings for the sub-centres at Nallavadu and Kuruvinatham will be opened shortly. Knee Transplantation programme and Kidney Transplantation surgery started by outsourcing the Specialists in the General Hospital, Puducherry is functioning well. Two blood banks, one at Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Research Institute and another at Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital, Puducherry will be established.

40. In order to provide financial assistance to the adult AIDS patients for their livelihood and nutrition a sum of ₹ 1,000 will be given through a special scheme. It is proposed to purchase a CT scan and to start a dialysis unit for renal failure patients and cardiac surgery at Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Research Institute, Puducherry. A special ward for terminally ill patients especially suffering from cancer will be started at Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute, Puducherry. After successful implementation of Rural Health Mission under NRHM, the health activities will be extended to urban areas as Urban Health Mission and 341 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) will be engaged for this purpose.

41. To extend Speciality and Super Speciality Services for the people of Yanam, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Apollo Hospitals, Kakinada for providing better health care.

AYUSH Drug Testing Laboratory will be upgraded in Public Health Laboratory under Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy. A state - of - the - art advanced CT scan at a cost of ₹ 7 crore has been purchased for Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute, Puducherry. The scheme of financial assistance to the people of the Economically Weaker Sections for taking speciality treatment outside the Union Territory of Puducherry will be increased from ₹ 1.50 lakh to ₹ 2 lakh and will be extended to all the regions through Pondicherry Medical Relief Society.

FIRE SERVICE

42. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 5.25 crore. New Fire Stations will be set up at Thavalakuppam, Karaiaiputhur, Lingareddypalayam and T.R. Pattinam. It is proposed to purchase Sky Lift

for fighting the fire accidents in high rise buildings and other modern equipment at a cost of ₹ 10 crore and necessary technical posts will be created.

TOURISM

43. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 65.50 crore. An MoU has been signed with Ille-et-Vilaine, a Country Council in France for promotion of tourism. A new website for the Department for destination marketing has been launched. New Media Agency has been appointed to carry out 360° media campaign for Puducherry Tourism. Action has been initiated for development of heritage areas in Puducherry, development of Thirukameswarar Temple at Villianur, Eco Beach developments in Puducherry, development works in Bharathi Park and extension of beach promenade in Puducherry. It is also proposed to complete Phase-III of Mahe Beach Walkway. Development of Nallambal Lake

in Karaikal region will be taken up in this year. Special tourism zone at Manapet, Star Hotel at Old Distillery premises in Puducherry, Star Resort and Water Park at Murungapakkam will be taken up this year under PPP mode after obtaining the approval of the Central Government.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

44. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 317.87 crore. It is proposed to provide individual water closet in the tenements at Boomianpet and Jawahar Nagar in Puducherry. Construction of E1 & E2 (48 tenements) at Boomianpet, 6.5 km. length of roads and drains will be provided in the required slum areas under the scheme 'Land Acquisition and Development Scheme / Slum Upgradation Programme'. It is proposed to impart training to skilled / semi-skilled labourers under the scheme 'Training for Artisans / Masons (Building Centre)'.

Under the Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Centenary Housing Scheme for Houseless Poor, 2nd and 3rd installments to 7,000 beneficiaries @ ₹ 60,000 each in Phase - V, 1st installment @ ₹ 70,000 per beneficiary and 2nd and 3rd installments @ ₹ 1,30,000 each in Phase - VI benefitting 1,075 beneficiaries will be released.

45. The Building Plan approval process by the Planning Authorities will be simplified. Out of 896 dwelling units at Lambert Saravanan Nagar, Reddiarpalayam, 400 units will be completed in all respects and handed over to the beneficiaries in the current financial year. Under "Rajiv Awas Yojana" in order to promote slum free city plan it is proposed to prepare a scheme to provide improved housing facilities and infrastructure development. Moreover, a Consultant has been selected to prepare a revised 'Master Plan' for the entire Puducherry region. The Master Plan will be ready within this year.

PUBLIC WORKS

46. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 373.44 crore. Paved shoulders between M.N. Kuppam and Sulthanpet and between Ariyankuppam and Kirumampakkam on NH 45-A for a total length of 8 km. at a cost of ₹ 10.40 crore will be provided. In order to avoid traffic stagnation on Railway level crossings, work has been started for Road Over Bridge (ROB) and approach roads at Arumparthapuram and 100 feet road near Indira Gandhi Square at a total cost of ₹ 60 crore. The construction of bridge at Thirukanji across Sankaraparani river has been started at an estimated cost of ₹ 32 crore for better access to the villages. The construction work of the bridge across Thirumalairajanar river at T.R. Pattinam is nearing completion. Outer ring road measuring 3.3 km. has been proposed to link this bridge with the National High Ways. In Karaikal Region, Kalikuppam village will be connected with

town by laying a new road. A minor bridge will be constructed at Subbarayapuram village. The state borders at Vanjoor and Ambagarathur will be improved and beautified with Arches. The work order for Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam Complex at Puducherry has been awarded at a cost of ₹ 23 crore and the works have resumed. A minor bridge, near Marapalam in Cuddalore road, costing ₹ 2.5 crore was completed and dedicated to public in July, 2014. To improve the water supply systems at Sembiapalayam, Thirubuvanai, Kirumampakkam, Vambupet, Thondamanatham, Perungalore and Sedarapet villages, works at an estimated cost of ₹ 15 crore will be taken up. Water purification system at 10 locations of Karaikal region at a cost of ₹ 1.2 crore will be installed. It is proposed to provide Water Supply System with new Over Head Tank, Sump, Water Distribution lines, pumping mains, etc., at Ariyankuppam Zone – V at a cost of ₹ 24 crore. The river side and beach development works (Phase - II)

at Mahe is proposed at a cost of ₹ 6 crore for a length of 480 metre. It is proposed to provide water supply to Darialithippa by providing High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe line from 55 Acres Ground Level Reservoir (GLR) at Yanam for a length of 10.65 km. at a cost of ₹ 6 crore. In Karaikal, Underground Drainage works will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 140 crores. A new bridge will be constructed near the old French Bridge in Lemaire street. A new bridge across River Arasalar will be constructed at Athipadugai village.

47. The work of relaying of 37 roads within the boulevard area of Puducherry has been taken up. The road connecting Ariyur and Abishekapakkam is being improved for a length of about 21 kms. The construction of a Civil Station at Arianakupam will be taken up. To improve attractiveness along the beach, the Beach Road in Puducherry will be extended by about 1 km. each on both sides near old distillery and Sea Gulls restaurant. To connect

Kamarajar Salai and Maraimalai Adigal Salai, the Road over Bridge construction will be recommenced at a cost of ₹ 40 crore. As a continuation, this bridge will be extended upto Kolas Nagar to connect Dr. Ambedkar Salai. In Vambakeerapalayam area, a minor jetty will be provided. Necessary action will be taken to raise the height of sea wall protection to safeguard the nearby houses. A new bridge is under construction at an estimated cost of ₹ 35 crore to connect Kaikilapet village with Suthukeny. Underground Drainage facility will be extended to Ariankuppam and Villianur area. In Ariankuppam, an Office Complex will be constructed at a cost of ₹ 6 crore. Appropriate action has been initiated to relocate the river gauging station in the Cauvery Distribution Systems in Karaikal region in co-ordination with the Monitoring Authority of Government of Tamil Nadu. This step will facilitate the flow monitoring of the receipt of Cauvery water as per the Final Award of Cauvery Water Tribunal. In Yanam, water

pipe line laying work from Pillanka will be taken up for execution. To connect Dariyalthippa village with Yanam GLR a scheme has been taken up at a cost of ₹ 6 crore. In Mahe region, all town roads will be re-laid at an estimated cost of ₹ 4.50 crore. To improve the infrastructure in all the four regions of the Union Territory, schemes to a tune of ₹ 1,510 crore will be taken up in the coming years through Public Works Department. ₹ 609 crore for Road Development schemes, ₹ 600 crore for Drinking Water Supply schemes, ₹ 140 crore for Underground drainage scheme and ₹ 161 crore for Storm water discharge and Flood Control schemes will be spent to execute the various projects.

TRANSPORT

48. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 7.90 crore. 10 air-conditioned Volvo buses have been purchased. A Comprehensive Mobility Plan

for Puducherry is under preparation in order to ensure safe and speedier transport. To manage the Urban Transport requirement of Puducherry, an Urban Transport Authority and an Urban Transport Fund will be set up to partially offset the Department's expenditure. Separate Transport Branch offices will be set up to cater to the requirement of the population of the taluks of Oulgaret, Bahour and Villianur in a phased manner. A Transport Complex with Driving Testing Yard will be constructed at Karaikal. The formation of new Railway line between Puducherry and Cuddalore will be expedited. It is proposed to purchase 40 more buses under JNNURM scheme through PRTC.

ADI-DRAVIDAR WELFARE

49. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 119 crore. Under the scheme "House Construction Subsidy", ₹ 4 lakh will be granted to 1,200 SC / OEBC beneficiaries for construction of house

by themselves. A subsidy of ₹ 20,000 per beneficiary for construction of sanitary latrines in their houses will be given to 200 SC people. An amount of ₹ 262 crore has been allocated to 20 departments for implementing various schemes for the development of SCs under the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan. To augment Human Resource in the Department, 22 persons including 11 women candidates have been recruited to the post of Welfare Inspector. It is proposed to enhance the Financial Assistance for the following Schemes from this year onwards to the economically weaker section of SC people in order to improve their socio-economic conditions. The financial assistance given to the persons belong to SC community who are suffering from prolonged illness will be enhanced from ₹ 500 per month to ₹ 2,000 per month. The financial assistance given to pregnant and lactating SC women will be enhanced to ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 12,000. The financial assistance given

for the funeral rites of SC people will be enhanced from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 10,000. The financial assistance given to the SC students those who are selected for the MBBS course through CENTAC will be enhanced from ₹ 2.25 lakh to ₹ 3.25 lakh each and those who are selected for the engineering courses through CENTAC will be enhanced from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 35,000 each from the academic year 2014-15 onwards.

SOCIAL WELFARE

50. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 59.60 crore. In order to ensure the 3% reservation in all categories of the posts in the Government to the differently-abled persons, necessary steps will be initiated to fill up the vacancies by conducting a special drive in the current financial year. During 2014-15, the rates of scholarship for the differently-abled students studying in the various schools of this Union Territory have been

raised from ₹ 250 to ₹ 1,000 per annum, students who are studying in 1st to 5th standard; from ₹ 500 to ₹ 2,000 per annum for 6th to 8th standard; from ₹ 850 to ₹ 3,400 per annum for 9th to 12th standard; from ₹ 1,250 to ₹ 5,000 per annum for Degree level courses and from ₹ 1,700 to ₹ 6,800 per annum for Postgraduate Students. The differently abled students studying in B.Tech. courses in other States will also be considered for the claim of reimbursement of their educational expenses. The Ananda Rangapillai Government Special School for visually disabled and hearing impaired at Pillaichavady will be upgraded from the Secondary level to Higher Secondary level for which ₹ 20 lakh is provided for the infrastructure requirement.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

51. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 177.05 crore. In order to expand the reach of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

Scheme, my Government has addressed the Government of India to approve the proposal for opening of 69 new Anganwadi Centres in the current financial year.

52. Nirbhaya Centers will be set up in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions with the financial assistance from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. These centers will act as centres for women victims of physical, mental and domestic violence by providing them medical assistance, police assistance, psycho social support, counselling, legal aid and temporary shelter with a video conferencing facility. The State Nutrition Council, has decided to evolve a State Nutrition Policy, in order to know about the nutritional status of the people and to collect data and to frame the Nutrition Policy, the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad has been selected.

REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

53. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 193.40 crore. It is proposed to establish Regional Emergency Operation Centres and extension of Early Warning System (EWS) VHF at Mahe and Yanam in the current financial year. 25 Village Administrative Officers (VAO) were appointed by direct recruitment. An army recruitment rally was conducted, in which 13 candidates were selected from Puducherry. In order to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities from a range of hydro-meteorological and geophysical hazards such as cyclone, storm surges, flood, tsunami, etc, a scheme of "Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project" had been approved by the Government of India and an amount of ₹ 188 crore was sanctioned in the Union Budget 2014-15. This was pending for the past 3 years. Action will be taken to construct houses under CDRRP to the eligible beneficiaries, living in the coastal

villages, prone to natural calamities with financial assistance from World Bank. If necessary, the relaxation for the eligibility criteria from the World Bank will be sought.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

54. The Plan allocation in the current financial year is ₹ 8 crore. It is proposed to distribute 1 kg of raw rice and sugar, ½ kg of jaggery, tur dhal, gram dhal, urid dhal to all the card holders at free of cost in all the four regions of this Union Territory during the occasion of Pongal Festival. During the current year, 2 Kgs. of free sugar will be distributed to all the card holders for Deepavali. It has already been done for the Onam festival. In the Union Territory of Puducherry, The popular scheme of providing 10 Kg. single boiled rice per month to all ration card holders in Puducherry and Karaikal is continuing in the current year also for which we

have a budget of ₹ 72 crore in non-plan. 11,45,076 Aadhaars have been generated which is 92 % of the total population. In respect of Puducherry region, the total Aadhaars generated are 9,25,323 which is 98% of the total population. e-Aadhaar facilities are provided through Common Service Centres. With a view to maximize the Aadhaar enrolment, 7 Permanent Enrolment Centres – 4 in Puducherry, 2 in Karaikal and 1 in Mahe have been set up in Common Service Centres to facilitate the public for Aadhaar enrolment, updation, etc.

POLICE

55. 623 Police Constable were recruited and 169 posts of various categories were created for Coastal Security. Recruitment of 214 India Reserve Battalion Constables, 450 Home Guards, 100 Women Police Constables will be completed by December, 2014. Special Grade was granted to the Police personnel who have worked for 15 years, 25 years and 35 years benefitting nearly 927 Police personnel –

55 persons as Special Grade Sub-Inspectors of Police, 404 persons as Special Grade Asst. Sub-Inspector of Police and 468 persons as Special Grade Head Constables. Under the 'Safe City' Project, Government of India has been requested to allocate ₹ 50.75 crore for modernisation of communications, PCR upgradation, Traffic Technology, Traffic Signals and Blinker, Intelligent Traffic Management System, CCTVs, and Computerisation and other technology initiatives of Police. Construction of Coastal Police Station buildings at Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam and construction of Jetties at Puducherry and Karaikal will be completed this year.

GENERAL

56. To improve the infrastructure in the Union Territory of Puducherry, Government of India has sanctioned a number of new projects which are proposed to be initiated this year and which will have a completion cycle of 2 – 3 years. These works

are, (i) Water supply projects for the urban areas of Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹ 307.50 crore and for Karaikal at an estimated cost of ₹ 161.50 crore, (ii) Construction of two Grade separators at Indira Gandhi Square and Rajiv Gandhi Square Junctions in order to ease the traffic at an estimated cost of ₹ 70 crore and 50 crore respectively and (iii) To construct a bridge at Ariyapalayam at an estimated cost of ₹ 38 crore. Similarly, many important projects, for which finances are being organized, may take two to three years to complete.

57. In order to fulfill long pending demands of the Government employees, necessary steps have been taken to regularise the services of *ad-hoc* employees serving in various capacities under the cadre control of Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DP & AR). Direct recruitment / Limited Departmental Competitive Examination for the post of Upper Division Clerk (UDC) as well as various

Departmental tests will be conducted soon. Also, the vacancies under promotion quota in various posts will be filled up shortly. Steps will be taken to publish the seniority lists of all cadres. Rotational transfers in the ministerial cadre will be effected. DP & AR will co-ordinate with other Departments to fillup around 2,000 Group 'C' vacancies before the end of the current financial year, through either promotion or direct recruitment. Our youth have regularly been getting selected to the prestigious Civil Services Examinations. I am very happy to announce that this year, one of the official from the Agriculture Department and one past student of the Agricultural College in Karaikal, have been selected in these examinations.

58. I am happy to inform that the Central Government has rolled out its ambitious financial inclusion programme, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) aimed at improving the lives of millions of poor by bringing them into the financial

mainstream by opening of bank account in every household. In Puducherry, 3,02,300 households are to be covered under this scheme and will be completed before end of September, 2014.

59. I would also like to inform the Hon'ble Members that the income ceiling limit for the Economically Weaker Section families has been increased from ₹ 24,000 to ₹ 75,000 per annum for availing benefits under various welfare oriented schemes.

60. It is proposed to celebrate the Sixtieth Anniversary of Pondicherry's Independence, falling on 1st November 2014, in a grand manner.

61. I place the budget for the year 2014 - 15 before this House and solicit the support of Hon'ble Members in this regard.

VANAKKAM !