



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

BUDGET SPEECH

2016 - 2017

Thiru **V. NARAYANASAMY**

Hon'ble Chief Minister



29th August, 2016

BUDGET SPEECH

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"Whatever result a person intends to achieve he may succeed in realising it according to his idea, provided he pursues his end with a steadfastness of will".

– Kural

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the first Budget of my Government for the year 2016-17. Hon'ble Members of this august House are being supplied copies of Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2016-17. I am proud to say that with the gracious guidance and blessings of our beloved leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi, President of All India National Congress and Shri Raghul Gandhi, Vice-President of All India National Congress, my Government will certainly rise to the expectations of the general people and fulfil the promises made by us to the people of Puducherry. Myself and my Government are also grateful to DMK leaders Dr. Kalaignar and Thiru Stalin, for extending full hearted support to my Government. I assure the Hon'ble Members that my Government

will strive hard to work for the upliftment of socio-economic conditions of all sections of the people with special focus on vulnerable sections of the society.

2. Hon'ble Members will be aware that marks the Golden Jubilee Year of Green Revolution ushered under the noble leadership of our legendary leader and former Prime Minister of India, late Tmt. Indira Gandhi by visionary statesman and renowned administrator par excellence, Thiru C. Subramaniam. We all know that Green Revolution is an historical turning point in the agricultural development of our country by which we became self-sufficient in food production. In this Golden Jubilee Year of Green Revolution I take this opportunity to recall the great contributions made by Tmt. Indira Gandhi, Thiru C. Subramaniam, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and all others for laying a strong foundation for ensuring nation's food security.

3. Immediately, after my Government assumed charge, we have implemented some of the assurances made to the people such as (i) increase in the free rice from 10 kg to 20 kg to all ration card holders, (ii) the financial assistance granted by Puducherry Medical Relief Society has been

increased from ₹ 2 lakh to ₹ 2.50 lakh. Further, the income limit has also been increased from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 1.50 lakh, (iii) increase in the High Speed Diesel limit used by fishermen, for spot exemption of Sales Tax, (iv) reduced 50% of electricity charges for the domestic consumers who consume below 100 units per month.

4. My Government is fully conscious that Puducherry is a geographically unique Union Territory with limited resources. At the same time, I am proud to inform the Hon'ble Members that we are always in the forefront in implementation of welfare schemes aimed at social security, empowerment and inclusiveness. My Government is also effectively implementing the flagship programmes of the Central Government such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Urban Rejuvenation Mission (AMRUT), National Health Mission, MGNREGA, Food Security Act, Rashtriya Uchh Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Skill Development Mission etc. This Government will be solely guided by the principles of public interest, public welfare, efficiency and economy. Keeping these noble principles in mind, the priority of this Government would be in the direction of providing (i) good, transparent governance ; (ii) clean Puducherry; (iii) safe, peaceful and healthy living ambience

through urban rejuvenation and transformation; (iv) quality education to secure the future of children; (v) quality healthcare and medical services; (vi) skill development and employment generation; (vii) promotion of sustainable tourism; (viii) industrial development through a forward looking new industrial policy (ix) inclusive and equitable development.

5. Hon'ble Members are well aware that due to Legislative Assembly elections, only Vote on Account was presented for six months for this financial year. After assuming charge, myself and my cabinet Colleagues met the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Home Minister and other Union Ministers and sought necessary support for the development of this Union Territory. The State Planning Board recommended a Budget size of ₹ 7,665 crore for the current year which included an additional grant assistance of ₹ 1,000 crore from Central Government and borrowings of ₹ 200 crore. The Government of India has approved the additional borrowings ₹ 200 crore. As regards the additional grant assistance, I wish to inform this House that in my discussions with the Central Government, it has been assured that the Central Government still has an open mind and a positive favourable action can be expected in the next few

months of this financial year. Therefore, the Budget size for 2016-17 has been fixed at ₹ 6,665 crore of which ₹ 4,100 crore would be under Non-Plan and ₹ 2,565 crore under Plan.

6. Before starting the budget announcements, I am duty bound to inform and apprise the Hon'ble Members about the existing financial status of the Union Territory of Puducherry which would help to understand the fiscal situation and the difficult road which we have to cover in the days to come for which the support of every Hon'ble Member of this House and the general public are a must.

7. Puducherry is getting central assistance for implementation of Plan schemes and for meeting a portion of the gap in Non-Plan expenditure. I wish to submit in this House that the Non-Plan expenditure are committed expenditure towards, salaries, wages, pension, debt servicing etc. which keeps increasing every year. Government of India which had fully supported the Union Territory after its merger with Union Government in its budget, had gradually reduced the Non-Plan and Plan Grants. The Non-Plan grant is now static at around ₹ 500 crore for the past

so many years without any increase, though additional expenditure is incurred on account of announcement of dearness allowances and bonus every year. I also want to highlight that the total salaries, wages, pension and interest payments which was about ₹ 585 crore in 2004-05 has gone up to ₹ 2,600 crore in 2015-16. In this the salaries, wages and pension alone constitutes ₹ 2,000 crore. As the Non-Plan committed expenditure is steadily growing after the implementation of 6th CPC and the Government of India is not compensating the Non-Plan gap through sufficient grant and the Union Territory's own resources/revenues are also not showing upward trend keeping in pace with the growing committed expenditure, the Union Territory has to depend upon external borrowings for meeting the expenditure towards infrastructure development under Plan, which increases the interest and debt burden of the State.

8. I am to inform the Hon'ble Members that the total outstanding loan as on 31-03-2016 is ₹ 6,651 crore and every year we are paying more than ₹ 700 crore towards principal and interest. Since the gap on borrowings

for every year has been fixed by the Fiscal Road Map approved by Government of India, the Union Territory would not be able to borrow more than the prescribed limit for any new developmental schemes. While so, from next year onwards, an additional amount of ₹ 400 crore to ₹ 500 crore has to be paid towards repayment as the maturity period of the earlier loan commences. In this scenario, the Government of India has announced acceptance of 7th CPC recommendations, and to implement in Puducherry it would require additional ₹ 500 crore per year. Moreover during the last few years, there have been natural calamities such as cyclone, rains, etc. for which major portion of resources have been diverted towards relief assistance and reconstruction. Being a Union Territory, Puducherry is not part of Central Finance Commission and therefore neither entitled for devolution of funds nor assistance under Calamity Relief Fund.

9. Hon'ble Members have to note that almost 25% of the total budget goes for salaries and wages, 10% for pension payments, 17% for purchase of electricity, 12% interest and repayments and 11% towards Grant-in-aid. Almost 75% of the total budget are committed expenditure and this leaves only 25% of the budget for other activities

including development works. The 7th CPC recommendations implementation will require nearly 45 to 50% of the budget for salaries, allowances and pension. Hence, I am to inform to the Hon'ble Members that appropriate steps to be taken to increase the financial resources in order to avoid financial crises.

10. If steps have not been taken to rectify the loss occurred in the previous Government, it is very hard to develop the Public Sector Undertakings, Boards, Co-operative Institutions and Societies and other autonomous bodies. During the year 2015-16, ₹ 656 crore accounting for 11% of the total budget have been released as Grant-in-aid to these statutory and autonomous organisations which are having around 13,500 staffs, mainly for the purpose of salaries and wages. I wish to inform this Hon'ble House that the profit making PSUs and Co-operatives have become red due to complete mismanagement of these units by overstaffing against the rule, unviable ventures and failure to revive through suitable business models.

11. I hope with the cooperation of Hon'ble Members and the public, my Government could tackle the situation in a comprehensive and holistic manner by augmenting

internal resources from potential untapped areas, wherever possible, and pursuing the matter with Government of India to get the due share of resources for Puducherry. I also assure the Hon'ble Members that my Government will take all efforts to bring about all round development and fulfil the promises given to the people of Puducherry including the implementation of 7th CPC recommendations after mobilising resources.

AGRICULTURE

12. Agriculture in Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam and Mahe regions forms the backbone of rural economy. Due to urbanization and increased cost of cultivation, agricultural sector is facing existential crisis. In this scenario, it is the duty of my Government to provide State support for agrarian development so as to safeguard the interest of the farmers and increase their income level. An outlay of ₹ 73.27 crore has been made to this department for 2016-17.

13. In order to protect the farmers from risks arising out of natural calamities, under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme, free crop insurance are

being done to cover around 15,000 hectares each under Kharif and Rabi season. This will benefit around 20,000 farmers. 50% of insurance premium are borne by the Central and the remaining 50% by State Government. This will involve an approximate expenditure of ₹ 3 crore per annum under State share.

14. To encourage the farmers to adopt mechanization, the assistance of maximum limit of ₹ 1 lakh will be enhanced to ₹ 4 lakh for general beneficiaries and ₹ 6 lakh for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries towards purchase of Mini-Tractor (with accessories) and Rotary Tiller with 50 % subsidy. Similarly, 25 power weeders at 50% subsidy for general farmers and 10 power weeders at 75% subsidy for SC farmers will be supplied this year. The horticultural produce harvested by the farmers are to be brought to the market in good condition without damage to get remunerative price. I feel that this can be achieved by distribution of 1,000 plastic crates to farmers at 50% subsidy subject to a maximum of ₹ 150 per plastic crate. An amount of ₹ 57.50 lakh has been provided for supplying Tractor-cum-Tillers, power weeders and plastic crates.

15. The farmers of Puducherry are showing great interest in cultivation of vegetables, melons, TC banana, marigol, coconut and other fruits, which gives good yield and income to the cultivators. Therefore, I propose to supply the seeds of these horticultural crops to our farmers at 75% subsidized price. A provision of ₹ 25 lakh is made in the budget for supplying horticultural seeds.

16. Poly-house cultivation yields good returns as crops are cultivated under protected conditions throughout the year, irrespective of season leading to high yields and high quality produce. In order to popularize and take the technology of poly-house cultivation to the farmers, it is proposed to provide 50% assistance to 5 general farmers subject to a maximum of ₹ 10 lakh for a poly-house size of 1,000 square metres. Likewise, for 5 SC farmers a maximum financial assistance of ₹ 15 lakh will be extended with a subsidy of 75%. In order to insure the poly-house against damage from natural causes, free insurance coverage for first 3 years will be extended by Agriculture Department.

17. As farmers are inclined to take up horticulture in a big way, there will be demand for shade nets for developing horticultural nursery. Therefore, to encourage the farmers,

the maximum financial limit of assistance of ₹ 2 lakh has been enhanced to ₹ 3 lakh with 50% subsidy for 1,000 square metre area. Accordingly, ₹ 30 lakh has been provided to supply shade nets.

18. Presently, water soluble fertilizers are distributed to the new farmers for the first year only. I propose to distribute water soluble fertilizers at 90% subsidy to the registered farmers involved in precision farming for the subsequent years also. An amount of ₹ 12 lakh has been earmarked for soluble fertilizer distribution.

19. To promote urban horticulture in roof tops of houses, this year 1,000 Kits are proposed to be supplied at 50% subsidized rate subject to maximum of ₹ 3,000 per kit. An amount of ₹ 30 lakh has been provisioned in the budget.

20. Presently, the tractors and trailers used exclusively for agricultural purposes are exempt from payment of motor vehicle tax. But, the motor vehicles of farmers used for transporting agricultural produce are subjected to motor vehicle tax every year, adding to the burden of the farmer. Therefore, it is decided to exempt the motor vehicles of

registered farmers which are exclusively used for transporting agricultural produce, from the payment of tax leviable under Puducherry Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1967 by amending the relevant provision.

21. To redress the sufferings of small and marginal farmers against the distress sale during harvest seasons due to glut in the market, my Government desires to make arrangement to store their agricultural produce in the godowns of Regulated Markets for maximum period of six months and avail pledge loan to a maximum of ₹ 2 lakh.

22. I am happy to share with the Hon'ble Members that Government of India have decided to allocate ₹ 20 crore in the first instance to implement the "National Hydrology Project" for undertaking the Water Resources Planning and Management Programmes by adopting advanced techniques. This Government has proposed to implement a comprehensive programme for undertaking the development of water resources related works by availing 100% central assistance under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for which ₹ 3.80 crore received from Central Government.

23. My Government proposes to increase the cultivable land area of this Union Territory by eradicating *Prosopis juliflora* (Karuvellam) from the farm-field for which an outlay of ₹ 1 crore has been provided. My Government proposes to motivate the farmers for consolidation of their small land holdings by encouraging "land banks" for promoting large scale mechanization and reducing the cost of cultivation.

24. The Government proposes to recognize and honour the best farmer by suitable awards for producing highest crop yield in Paddy and Sugarcane selected on the basis of acreage and production by rewarding a cash incentive for three farmers of ₹ 1 lakh, ₹ 75,000 and ₹ 50,000 respectively in each region namely Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam.

25. In addition to the State scheme, the following CSS schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), National Horticultural Mission (NHM), National Mission on Soil Health (NMSH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Sub-mission on oil seeds and palm oil etc. will be implemented by availing financial assistance from Government of India.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

26. An outlay of ₹ 22.85 crore has been proposed in the current financial year. Besides various welfare measures being extended to the rural people, this Government is very passionate about strengthening the Animal Husbandry sector, which will give a significant boost to the rural economy and will improve the supplemental income of the poor. To produce desirable future stock with superior Germplasm, Artificial Insemination to Heifer cow and buffalo has been targeted as 80,000 cases and to take up more number of infertility camps during the current year. In order to safeguard the cattle rearers who are non-members of co-operative society, it is proposed to distribute the subsidized cattle and calf feed at 75% to the eligible farmers.

ART AND CULTURE

27. An outlay of ₹ 12.84 crore has been proposed in the current financial year. The Romain Rolland Library in Puducherry popularly known as State Library and Dr. S.R. Ranganathan Library in Karaikal popularly known as District Library are being modernised at a cost of ₹ 2.72 crore with the support of National Mission Libraries,

Government of India. Wherever there are no libraries, reading rooms have been opened with magazines and newspapers. Presently there are only 54 functional reading rooms and as there is great demand for libraries in rural areas, more number of reading rooms will be opened up with magazines and newspapers. There are nearly 300 artist group in Puducherry. In order to give equal opportunities to all the artist groups, week end programme has been organised every Sunday at Gandhi Thidal. This has greatly attracted tourists, visiting Puducherry. Now calendar of events relating to festival in each region of Union Territory of Puducherry will be prepared and artists will be deputed from one region to other regions of Union Territory of Puducherry, thereby there will be interchange of artists between regions. This apart, the artists of Union Territory of Puducherry will be deputed to other States in exchange of artists of other States with the support of South Zone Culture Centre. To promote tourism, opportunities will be given to the artist groups in major hotels. Tamilmani, Telugu Ratna, Malayala Ratna awards were hitherto given to the persons who apply for the same. It has been observed that many reputed scholars/artists who have been honoured in other States by identifying their talents,

have not applied for awards in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Similarly it was found that many talented persons in Union Territory of Puducherry have not applied for awards. Such talented persons will be selected through a committee and awarded.

COMMERCIAL TAX

28. As a major revenue earner, during 2015-16, Commercial Taxes Department has collected total revenue of ₹ 1,439 crore in spite of the steep fall in the prices of the petroleum product. I hope the revenue target of ₹ 1,600 crore set for this year would also been achieved. An outlay of ₹ 8.43 crore has been proposed in the current financial year.

29. My Government is taking keen interest in the welfare of traders. "Puducherry Traders Welfare Board" will be operationalised to redress the multifarious challenging problems faced by the trader community. The steep fall and high volatility in the prices of petroleum products over the past few months, have severely impacted the revenue collection which will be addressed by rationalization of VAT rates on petrol and diesel.

30. Under Puducherry VAT Act, 'Power tillers' used for agricultural purpose is taxable at 14.5%. In order to help the agricultural sector to improve production, I propound to exempt Power Tiller from levy of VAT for registered farmers of Puducherry. Further, to encourage use of sanitary napkins and improve hygiene-related practices among adolescent females, I propose to reduce the VAT on 'Sanitary Napkins' from 14.5% to concessional rate of 2%.

31. The rate of tax on LED bulbs is presently 8% which coupled with the high cost discourages the use of LED bulbs. In order to promote the use of energy saving and environmental friendly LED bulbs among the households, I am glad to reduce the tax rate to an incentivizing level. Accordingly I propose to reduce the VAT from 8% to 2% on LED bulbs, LED lamps, fluorescent bulbs and LED Torches.

32. The goal of a "Clean India" and "Clean Puducherry" as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission can only be achieved by using innovative technologies and equipments in cleaning. Therefore, I propose to exempt "Swachh Bharat Equipments" sold to Local Bodies and Public Works Department

from levy of VAT. In order to regulate the claim of exemption, the selling dealer has to submit a certificate issued from the Director, Local Administration or Chief Engineer, PWD, with details of the equipments purchased to claim exemption.

33. The Government of India has proposed to implement the Goods and Service Tax (GST) from the 1st of April, 2017. As part of GST preparedness, Commercial Taxes Department is taking all the necessary steps for the smooth roll out of GST regime in Puducherry. As the registration of dealers under the GST regime is based on PAN, Permanent Account Number (PAN) of 100% of the dealers hitherto registered under the VAT Act has been collected and 99% of the PAN have been validated. The balance PAN would be validated shortly.

34. The functioning of the Commercial Taxes Department is already computerized and hence, it would not be difficult for the department to adapt to the new IT intensive GST environment. All IT infrastructures would be put in place within the time frame for smooth transition to GST regime and connected to the proposed GST-Network (GSTN). 15 officials of the Commercial Taxes Department have been deputed to undergo 'Trainers Training' at Chennai and

Thiruvananthapuram conducted by the Government of India. These officials, in turn would impart training to other officers and staff of the department, dealers and other stakeholders.

35. Sufficient training programs, covering dealers and Stakeholders of the four regions of the Union Territory, would be organized to sensitize them on the GST. It is also proposed to operate Helpdesk for 24 hours on all days to assist the dealers towards hassle free transition to GST and to attend queries on GST.

36. My Government gives importance for road safety and safe driving by citizen. The Government has already notified the mandatory wearing of helmets by two wheeler riders. 'Helmets' are presently taxed at 10% rate. In view of the huge social benefits and as a matter of public policy, I propose to exempt 'Helmets' from VAT, so as to promote the habit of helmet wearing among the two wheelers to facilitate safe driving.

37. E-autorickshaw is both pollution-free and noiseless and being a green initiative, is ideal mode of transportation for Puducherry. As per PVAT Act, 2007, E-rickshaws are taxable at the rate of 14.5% as residuary item.

In view of the non-polluting nature of the vehicle and its compatibility with the "Smart City" tag, I am glad to propose the reduction in the rate of tax on 'E-rickshaw' and 'battery operated cars' from 14.5% to 2%.

38. Though institutional mechanisms are there for road safety and environmental pollution mitigation, due to scarcity of resources, these initiatives could not be taken forward in an effective manner. Therefore, to provide continuous flow of resources to the road safety and pollution mitigation initiatives, I propose to set apart a small portion of the VAT collected on petrol and diesel exclusively for supporting these initiatives on a long term basis. 50% of the above proceeds will be provided to Road Safety Fund and the remaining 50% will be provided to the 'Green fund' of Puducherry Pollution Control Committee.

CO-OPERATION

39. Co-operatives have played a significant role in poverty reduction and faster socio-economic growth. In order to sustain the co-operative movement in this Union Territory my Government, besides taking various measures for

strengthening the co-operative societies, would also provide financial assistance to the weavers co-operative societies to modernize their Pit looms and Frame looms. The Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers Union will set up 5 Instant Milk Cooler Units and 5 Primary Co-operative Milk Producers' Society. To manufacture milk based consumables like butter, cheese, ice cream, flavoured milk etc., it is proposed to setup a plant in the land situated at Ariyur by The Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers Union. In order to facilitate members of the Primary Co-operative Milk Producers Societies to assess the quality and quantity of milk procured and to measure its value instantly, financial assistance will be provided for procurement of milk analyser.

40. In order to improve the financial conditions of the Co-operative Spinning Mills and Sugar Mills, privatisation and modernisation will be taken up, as per the feasibility. Under the central schemes of Rhasriya Krish Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPDD) financial assistance will be obtained to develop dairying activities of Co-operative Milk Union (PONLAIT). Action will be taken to computerize the

functioning of the co-operative societies. Karaikal Co-operative Marketing Society will take up renovation of existing modern rice mill.

ELECTRICITY

41. The power requirement of this Union Territory is being met by availing share of power from the Central Generating Stations and purchasing power from neighbouring State Electricity Boards. This makes the Union Territory power surplus. However to ensure flexibility and uninterrupted power supply to the urban areas, the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) under Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (CDRRP), have commenced works at a cost of ₹ 16.50 crore to establish two additional 11 KV underground cable feeders to Muthialpet areas from 110 / 11 KV Venkata Nagar Sub-station. In addition, a new 110 / 22 KV Power Transformer at Venkata Nagar Sub-station is being erected, at a cost of ₹ 11.75 crore. This will improve reliability of power supply in and around the town areas. In order to ensure reliable power supply to the Puducherry Town area as well as to the Lawspet area, it is proposed to lay 110 KV cable from the proposed Lawspet 110 KV Sub-station to the Venkata Nagar 110 KV Sub-station.

42. I am happy to inform the House that Government of India has approved the proposal for implementation of the scheme for Renovation and Modernisation of Villianur and Bahour 230 / 110 KV Auto Sub-Stations at an estimated cost of ₹ 10.56 crore to be executed under Power System Development Funds. Out of the total project cost of ₹ 10.56 crore, ₹ 9.50 crore comes as grant from the Government of India and the balance amount will be met from State Plan Funds. Further, the Steering Committee of Ministry of Power, Government of India has agreed to the proposal for erection of static meters, capacitor banks, high voltage distribution system, roof top solar projects etc., at a cost of ₹ 21.74 crore with 75% grant from the Government of India and the balance 25% will be met out from the State funds. In order to strengthen the Sub-transmission and Distribution network and Metering in rural areas in the Union Territory of Puducherry, it is proposed to take up works shortly in the rural areas of Puducherry and Karaikal regions at a project cost of ₹ 20.15 crore by implementing of "Deena Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)", sanctioned by Government of India.

43. My Government has also initiated action to strengthen the transmission and distribution network in the Union Territory to meet the growing power demand, for which a detailed Project Report for an amount of ₹ 743.50 crore has been evolved and submitted to the Government of India to avail loan from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). This Government has proposed to implement the Smart Grid Pilot Project under the National Smart Grid Mission of Government of India by finalizing the investor-*cum*-service provider through tenders for the project. The investor model and the installation of Smart Meters has since been commenced. Out of the total project cost of ₹ 43.91 crore, 50% will be funded by Central Government and the remaining 50% by the investor. The first phase of project will initially cover 34,000 services in the Boulevard area.

44. In all the coastal villages of Karaikal District and Kurusampeta and Savithri Nagar villages in Yanam region, which are being affected by Natural disasters frequently. Underground Cable System will be established ₹ 10 crore is being allocated for these works during this year. Scheme for converting the existing sodium vapour and fluorescent bulbs into energy efficient LED bulbs in the

street light system of the entire Union Territory will be implemented during this year. Works for converting the existing overhead lines into underground cable system in the Mada streets of Thirukameswarer Temple, Villianur will be commenced during this year.

45. An outlay of ₹ 1,285 crore under Non-plan has been provided for 2016-17 of which ₹ 1,070 crore is for power purchase. The department has been targeted to mobilize non-tax revenue of ₹ 1,200 crore.

EXCISE

46. Excise is the 2nd largest tax revenue earner to the Government. The revenue realized by the department last year was ₹ 673.75 crore. Based on the passed performance, this year the Excise Department has been given a target of ₹ 775 crore.

47. My Government is of the view that there is still source for revenue augmentation from alcoholic beverage industry. In order to capitalize on this, the Government proposes to be a intermediate regulator agency between

the manufacturer and FL1 licensees without causing any displacement of the existing licensees and without undermining their vending rights granted by the State.

48. As arrack is losing both social acceptance and its market share to low priced IMFL, my Government will consider to issue fresh IMFL licences for retail vending through a transparent process equivalent to the number of arrack shops being closed every year, in a phased manner.

49. The Government introduced affixing of tamper-proof holograms for all alcoholic beverage bottles and containers to prevent sale of spurious liquor and evasion of excise duty. I propose to increase the price of per hologram from 25 paise to 50 paise.

INDUSTRIES

50. Industrial growth propels the growth of the economy by providing both direct and indirect employment and improves the standard of living of the population through stable income generation. My Government strongly believes that the economic and social well-being of the people of Puducherry is linked to the growth of industries, especially manufacturing which has high employment generation potential. Therefore,

my Government will create a peaceful, harmonious, investor friendly, investor accessible and conducive atmosphere for establishment of new industries and smooth functioning of existing industries.

51. My Government, with a view to promote industrialization and focused industrial development, is formulating a new Industrial Policy which will improve the ease of doing business and would also effectively address the issues of faster industrial clearances, industrial land bank, infrastructure facilities in industrial areas and parks, industrial incentives, pollution control etc. Preference will be given towards manufacture of automobile spare parts, food processing industry, prawn feed production, readymade garments, software industry and production of pharmaceutical items. My Government is committed to provide quality power at competitive cost for industrial development and appropriate mechanism will be put place to ensure faster power connections.

52. The Confederation of Indian Industry and other Industrial Associations have requested for conversion of leasehold plots into freehold one in respect of the plots in the existing industrial estates established by PIPDIC,

as it restrains the entrepreneur from accessing funds from banks and financial institutions. My Government has understood the problem posed by the leasehold rights on industrial expansion and access to funds. Therefore, to remove the bottleneck in the long term interest of industrial development, my Government agrees "In Principle" to convert the lease hold plots and land into freehold for which a specific scheme will be formulated and implemented as per established procedure.

TOURISM

53. Before I begin the Tourism Sector, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for sanctioning ₹ 85.28 crore under the Coastal Circuit in "Swadesh Darshan" Scheme. ₹ 17.05 crore has been released towards 20% of 1st instalment. With the above central financial assistance, the following 7 beaches in Puducherry will be developed: (1) Kalapet Beach in Kalapet Constituency at ₹ 8.51 crore; (2) Dubrayapet Beach in Uppalam Constituency at ₹ 4.90 crore; (3) Arikamadu Beach in Ariankuppam Constituency at ₹ 3.49 crore; (4) Chinna Veerampattinam Beach in Manavelly

Constituency at ₹ 5.63 crore; (5) Chunnambar Beach in Manavelly Constituency at ₹ 3.07 crore; (6) Narambai Beach in Embalam Constituency at ₹ 8.57 crore; (7) Manapet Beach in Bahour Constituency at ₹ 9.88 crore and (8) the Heritage buildings located in white town of Raj Bhavan area will be restored, protected and illuminated at a cost of ₹ 21.99 crore; (9) The Islands No. 3 and 5 in Yanam Constituency will be developed at ₹ 10.70 crore; (10) Sound Light Show will be established at Botanical Garden in Yanam Constituency at ₹ 2.91 crore.

54. Last month, I met the Tourism Minister and put forth our demand to consider our future proposals under "Heritage Circuit" and "Spiritual Circuit" since our Union Territory of Puducherry is famous for its rich heritage and spiritual values. The Hon'ble Minister is kindly agreed our request and advised us to send the proposals. Accordingly, concept note have been submitted and the Ministry is agreed to sanction the proposals for the development of Heritage Tourism Circuit for ₹ 100 crore and Spiritual Tourism Circuit for ₹ 100 crore which containing the following components. Under "Heritage Circuit": (1) Beautification of

beach promenade and extension in Southern (Uppalam) and Northern side (Raj Bhavan) at ₹ 24.93 crore, (2) Revitalization of streetscapes in the heritage area (within boulevard) (Raj Bhavan) at ₹ 15 crore, (3) Cultural Complex with Art and Digital Museum at Old Distillery premises in Puducherry at ₹ 25 crore, (4) Beautification and improvement of Nehru Street at ₹ 2.10 crore, (5) Developing new passenger terminal and wayside amenities at ₹ 10 crore, (6) Yoga and Wellness Centre at ₹ 9.88 crore, (Uppalam) (7) Beautification of Grand Canal at ₹ 10 crore (Raj Bhavan and Uppalam), (8) Toilet facilities in 8 places at ₹ 3 crore (Raj Bhavan, Uppalam and Orleanpet), (9) Improvement works in Tourism building at Beach road at ₹ 2.72 crore, (10) Restoration of Anandha Ranga Pillai's House at ₹ 2.15 crore, (11) Restoration of Dumas Church's Bell Tower at ₹ 76 lakh, (12) Beautification of St. Vinnaerppu Annai Church, Nellithope at ₹ 1 crore, (13) Beautification of Sacred Heart Church, Pondicherry at ₹ 1 crore (14) Beautification of Lourd Annai Church, Villianur at ₹ 1 crore, (15) Restoration and beautification of St. Ann's Church at Yanam at ₹ 75 lakh, (16) Restoration and beautification of St. Theresa Church at Mahe at ₹ 75 lakh.

55. Under Spiritual Circuit : (1) Infrastructure development in Sri Thenkalai Srinivasa Perumal Koil in Muthialpet at ₹ 2.95 crore, (2) Infrastructure development in Sri Guru Akkaswamikal Thirukoil in Raj Bhavan at ₹ 2.06 crore, (3) Infrastructure development in Varadaraja Perumal Temple in Raj Bhavan at ₹ 1.45 crore, (4) Infrastructure development in Vedapureeswarar Temple in Raj Bhavan at ₹ 4.88 crore, (5) Infrastructure development in Sri Kokilambal Thirukameswarar Temple in Villianur at ₹ 7.83 crore, (6) Infrastructure development in Ramalingeswar Temple in Nettapakkam at ₹ 1.15 crore, (7) Infrastructure development in Ambalathadayar Appar Jeeva Samadi in Embalam at ₹ 2.12 crore, (8) Infrastructure development in Gangai Varaga Natheeswarar Temple in Mangalam at ₹ 14.81 crore, (9) Infrastructure development in Sengazhuneer Amman Temple in Ariankuppam at ₹ 2.38 crore, (10) Infrastructure development in Karaikal Ammaiyar Kovil in Karaikal-South at ₹ 2.98 crore, (11) Development of Spiritual Park in Thirunallar at ₹ 11.23 crore, (12) Parking and Pilgrim facilities in Thirunallar at ₹ 8.69 crore, (13) Revitalization of Sacred Ponds in Thirunallar at ₹ 4.12 crore, (14) Improvement of Four Car Street in Thirunallar at ₹ 8 crore, (15) Development of Southern Ring Road in Thirunallar at ₹ 10 crore, (16) Sewage Treatment Plant for Nalankulam

in Thirunallar at ₹ 2 crore, (17) Infrastructure development in Ambagarathur Sri Badrakali Amman Temple at ₹ 4.11 crore, (18) Infrastructure development in T.R. Pattinam Sri Jadepureswarar Temple in Neravy at ₹ 2.50 crore, (19) Infrastructure development in Big Mosque at Karaikal (North) at ₹ 1.50 crore, (20) Infrastructure development in Sri Venkateswaraswamy Temple in Yanam at ₹ 8 crore, (21) Improvement works at Grand Mosque in Yanam at ₹ 50 lakh, (22) Approach road development and beautification of entry point in Yanam at ₹ 3 crore, (23) Providing tourist signage, toilet facilities and food kiosks at tourist spots in Yanam at ₹ 50 lakh.

56. To develop Science Tourism, my Government is proposed to transfer 5 acres of tourism lands to build a Planetarium at Thirunallar in Karaikal region. Constant and sincere efforts are being taken by this Government to resume the flight operations from Puducherry Airport which will boost not only the tourism activities but also fetch good revenue for this Union Territory. Chances are more for air connectivity from Puducherry by the Regional Connectivity Scheme recently introduced by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India under New Aviation Policy.

57. Professional marketing campaign will be strengthening to attract more investors to invest in tourism sector especially in hotel industry. This not only fetches revenue for the administration but also increase the inflow of tourists in the years to come and the occupancy in hotels will also enhance resulting in good income. The above action will fulfil our dream of making Puducherry a weeklong destination in South India.

58. My Government has already taken steps to prepare a comprehensive Tourism Policy for development of tourism in the Union Territory for the next 5 years. Further, my Government is planning to promote homestays to boost tourism in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The comfortable homestay units on par with bed and breakfast scheme of Government of India enabling the tourists of middle and upper middle class to experience the Puducherry hospitality, cuisine, customs and traditions by staying with families. The owner of the homes is also benefitted by this arrangement. This system will also ease the suffering of tourists in getting hotel accommodation in peak seasons.

59. Earlier in the year 2009, the Andhra Pradesh was agreed to transfer 9,000 sq. ft. of land in Thirumala for constructing a Guest House for the benefit of pilgrims of Puducherry. This administration had also paid an amount of ₹ 3 crore for the said purpose. However, due to Court case, the proposal had been dropped and the said amount was returned by the Andhra Pradesh. Now, my Tourism Minister is pursuing with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to start a Guest House in Tirumala Hills for the benefits of Pilgrims visiting from Puducherry, and also facilitating Special Darshan.

60. Presently, The Hotel Pondicherry Ashok is a joint venture of Government of Puducherry and India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC). Now, the ITDC is agreed to sell entire share to Puducherry Government. Tourism Department is having 100 acres of land in Manapet. 25 acres of lands has been earmarked for oceanarium. In the remaining lands and the land available in Hotel Pondicherry, my Government is proposed to create maha tourism zones by inviting global tender encouraging private entrepreneurs to invest in tourism projects.

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

61. Considering the priority under prawn culture, subsidy amounting to ₹ 30,000 @ ₹ 10,000 per acre will be granted for covering 3 acres. Considering the quantum of loss of livelihood to the fisher folks during fishing ban period, the ban relief assistance will be extended to nearly 21,601 families for a tune of ₹ 9.37 crore. Old age pension is continued to be paid to fishermen and women. A cash prize of ₹ 5,000 and ₹ 7,000 will be awarded to meritorious fishermen students who have studied in 10th and 12th standards respectively and secured marks 75% above. Fair price shop subsidy @ ₹ 50,000 per annum will be granted to 4 Nos. of Fishermen and Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies. A sum of ₹ 4.95 crore will be paid for 27,500 fishermen families at ₹ 1,800 towards savings-*cum*-relief fund under CSS.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS CELL

62. My Government holds in high esteem the sacrifices of freedom fighters who had strived hard in the struggle for the freedom of the nation and the liberation of the Union Territory. I am happy to inform this august House

about the enhancement of freedom fighters pension from ₹ 7,000 per month to ₹ 8,000 per month. I am also glad to inform the Hon'ble Members that in order to honour the Ex-French (Military) pensioners numbering around 112 persons, on the occasion of 1st Liberation Day of Puducherry, my Government has proposed to grant ₹ 500 per month in addition to their minimum civil pension drawn at present as "Liberation Day Monthly Assistance" with effect from August 2016. To support the freedom fighters family, immediate ex gratia relief will be enhanced from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 15,000 and it will be disbursed in the event of their death and spouse death from the Chief Minister's Welfare Fund.

EDUCATION

63. My Government accords highest priority for Human Resources development in the Union Territory Hon'ble Members are well aware that myself and Education Minister have visited many schools and found that they are in bad conditions without basic amenities such as good drinking water, toilets, lighting, etc. As this requires urgent intervention, additional fund of ₹ 17 crore have been provided to take up repair and renovation of works in the schools of Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam and Mahe regions.

64. In order to encourage Sports and Youth activities in Puducherry, the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium will be renovated at a cost of ₹ 6 crore. Under the Central Scheme of Urban Sports infrastructure, proposal has been sent for construction of one Multipurpose Indoor Hall near Tagore Arts College Ground, Lawspet, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 6 crore. It is also proposed to construct indoor hall at Bahour and Villianur in order to encourage sports in rural areas.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

65. My Government proposes to conduct coaching classes for 25 days to 90 teacher training students who are studying in second year in the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) so as to enable them to compete in the Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET). In order to improve the quality of teaching and to increase the learning outcome of the students, it is proposed to constitute Inspection Committees for inspecting Primary, Upper Primary, High and Higher Secondary Schools for effective monitoring of schools from this year onwards. To improve the quality of education of the students, it is proposed to telecast video

lessons of hard spots in various subjects by experienced teachers of Puducherry in local cable TV network by utilizing the ICT labs available in High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools.

66. Hon'ble Members are aware that Government of India has decided to admit students for Medical Courses based on National Eligibility-*cum*-Entrance Test (NEET) rankings. Therefore, it is proposed to conduct coaching classes separately for boys and girls in Puducherry and Karaikal regions this year to the students studying biology in Government schools who are aspiring for medical courses. In order to encourage and promote Arts and Crafts, Government of Puducherry proposes to organize School level, District level and State level competitions for the students in the field of visual art, dance, music and theatre and distribute certificates and prizes. To make learning mathematics and science a joyful activity and to nurture a spirit of inquiry and creativity amongst the children, it is proposed to provide maths and science kits and training for maths and science TGT's by the experts from National level Institutions.

67. My Government will continue to provide financial assistance under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme to the students pursuing professional courses through CENTAC. It is proposed to introduce a new scholarship from 2016-17 to the students pursuing Ph.D. Degree in Arts and Science subjects.

68. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abiyan (RUSA)" more funds will be obtained from Government of India for construction of building, infrastructure development, faculty development, skill development, etc. for the projects such as:

- (i) Conversion of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Karaikal into a constituent college of Technical University.
- (ii) Construction of academic blocks for the Society for Arts and Science colleges.
- (iii) Creation of infrastructure facilities in all the Government and Society colleges.
- (iv) Getting permanent affiliation from the Pondicherry University to the courses conducted by the Institutions.

69. Short term non-formal skill development courses such as Tailoring, AC mechanic, Electrician, Computer hardware, Accounting (Tally), DTP, Auto mechanic (4 wheeler driving), Auto mechanic (3 wheeler), Cell Phone tech, Plumber, Wireman for 3 months and 6 months will be conducted under the CSS scheme "Community Development through Polytechnics (CDTP)" out of the fund released by the Ministry of Human Resources Development in Motilal Nehru Government Polytechnic College, Puducherry.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES

70. I would like to share with the Hon'ble Members that the Healthcare in the Union Territory of Puducherry has been delivered through a network of 8 major Hospitals, 4 CHCs, 40 PHCs, 82 Sub-Centres, 14 ESI Dispensaries, 1 Physical Medicine Rehabilitation Centre and 17 Disease Specific Clinics. Annually over 57 lakh outpatients and over 1.40 lakh inpatients are treated in these 165 health-care centres and Institutions. With a view to provide specialized health service, it is proposed to procure one 105 Tesla MRI Scanner for the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute. An exclusive 'Burns Ward' for male and female will be opened at Government General

Hospital, Karaikal. To ensure transparent and instantaneous communication of births details, it has been proposed to set up Electronic and Digital Information System by establishing "Information Kiosk" for instant enquiries in the Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital, Puducherry. In order to ensure quick transportation of patients to the higher health institutions it has been proposed to purchase Ambulances for Puducherry and Karaikal regions. Necessary action would be initiated to get necessary clearances for Organ Donation and Organ Transplantation at Government Hospitals and Medical College.

71. In order to carry out repairing and renovation works in the Government Hospitals and Health Centres, ₹ 2 crore has been additionally provided for Karaikal region.

72. Under Puducherry Medical Relief Society Scheme, my Government had already enhanced the income ceiling limit from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 1.5 lakh so as to extend the benefit to more beneficiaries in the lower income segment of the population. Further, my Government also increased the quantum of financial assistance under this scheme from ₹ 2 lakh to ₹ 2.5 lakh. To meet the expenditure, a provision of ₹ 7 crore has been made for 2016-17.

73. It is proposed to start the Dialysis unit in Yanam and Mahe regions. The renal patients of Yanam and Mahe regions are facing difficulties in availing Dialysis facilities in their region itself. Dialysis facilities are available for the patients of Puducherry and Karaikal. Hence, it is proposed to extend the facilities to Yanam and Mahe regions which will make the entire Union Territory patients avail the benefits in their respective region itself. The people of Puducherry have repeatedly voiced to operate the second shift in all Primary Health Centres. Hence, we intend to start 2nd shift *i.e.* afternoon OPD in all the Primary Health Centres in Puducherry region in phases. To run the 2nd shift, the Government propose to appoint Contract doctors and part-time paramedical staff wherever necessary through Puducherry State Health Mission and State Government.

74. Presently paid Medical Allowance to pensioners may be converted as premium for the insurance scheme. The scheme could cover both the pensioners and his spouse. Scheme coverage would be to a maximum of ₹ 3,50,000 per year and an additional ₹ 50,000 may be claimed on special case. Irrespective of the pensioners residence *i.e.*, all India coverage will be provided for the pensioners. The scheme could cover the spouse of the

pensioners in the event of the pensioner's death. The Department proposes to purchase 51 new type of equipments for Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute, Puducherry, for cost of ₹ 5 crores approximately to render high quality of services to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Further, it is intended to procure or outsource MRI scan facilities at Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute, Puducherry. It is seen that major surgeries are not performed due to lack of fully equipped Intensive Care Unit after surgery. The patient in severe distress requires ICU facilities immediately. Hence, it is proposed to explore the possibilities of outsourcing ICU services in medical college and any other hospital where such services are deficient. The outsource team will have experts in intensive care and will work round the clock and takes the responsibility by taking advice through telemedicine methods from respective specialists.

75. My Government has proposed to start Postgraduate course in 11 Medical subjects in Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute in order to accommodate 34 students.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

76. Hon'ble Members are well aware that Information Technology plays pivotal role in the modern day-to-day administration. My Government wants to leverage the latest developments in IT for providing citizen services. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members on this occasion that Puducherry has been chosen one among the seven states for implementing National Information Infrastructure (NII) Pilot Phase. Under this project, State Wide Area Network (SWAN) No FN & NKN networks would be integrated which enables faster and wider reach of the online services to the Citizens, networking 294 Government offices for enabling the services at the village level. The Wi-Fi services which is operational at Le Café, Beach Road and Bharathi Park, Pondicherry, will be extended to other 15 areas. Through the CSC-SPV which is establishing Wi-Fi in rural areas, "Abhisekapakkam" has been connected on pilot basis which is the first scheme implemented in India. Subsequently, it will be rolled out to 10 villages.

77. Under e-District MMP project 73 services of 12 departments would be delivered at the door step of citizens. Back end automation for delivery of Government services online through internet, CSC, etc. will also be

taken up in this scheme. In order to build the capacity of Government employees for coping up with the skill required to work with IT projects, it is proposed to impart training on Digital Literacy at various levels of IT through tie-up with Pondicherry University, Pondicherry Engineering College and Government Colleges, Information Communication Technology Academy of Puducherry and non-profit organization of National Institute for Smart Governance (NISG) and NGO's. Joint Capacity Building Programme with neighbouring State is also planned. Training calendar covering the needs of various Departments has been prepared for training 3,000 Government officials at various levels.

78. Under National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM), partners including CSC-SPV are imparting training. So far 5,670 certificates are issued and permission has been obtained to train more than 30,000 persons. Similar MoU has been sent to Government of India for implementing Mass e-Literacy scheme under NDLM. In order to make the students employable while passing out from the colleges, it is proposed to give training to 750 students during the year 2016-17 to develop their skills. Job fair is

being organized for IT skilled youth at regular intervals. Two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with major Global Certification Authorities for imparting specialized training to the students.

POLICE

79. After my Government has assumed charge, the police administration has been toned up and there has been an overall improvement on the crime control front. The "Safe City Project" is proposed to be implemented with an estimated cost of ₹ 50.75 crore to strengthen and modernize the Police force, in this Union Territory which consists of:

- (i) Integrated Intelligence Strengthening and Surveillance (CCTV).
- (ii) Control Room Upgradation (PCR vehicles).
- (iii) State of the Art Antiterrorism and Bomb Disposal Measures.
- (iv) Automatic Traffic Management System, and
- (v) Upgraded Training to Police Personnel.

80. It is proposed to install CCTV camera in important public mobilizing places. Further, 33% post of Sub-Inspector of police and constables be filled by women. It is also proposed to construct police station at Reddiarpalayam and Lawspet, outpost police station at Karikalampakkam and Darialatippa, traffic police station at Villianur (e-eye scheme). In order to strengthen the coastal security, my Government has proposed to construct two Coastal Police Stations one each at Mahe and Yanam.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

81. My Government will fully support the efforts of the Local Administration in maintaining the garbage free environment and as such "Clean Puducherry" is one of its primary focused objectives. In order to Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, it is proposed to construct 6,000 household toilets under Swachh Bharat Scheme. My Government has also proposed to have GIS mapping and online payment for improving the efficiency of property tax collection by Local Bodies. It is proposed to raise the MLA fund from ₹ 1 crore to ₹ 2 crore.

PUBLIC WORKS

82. Infrastructure development plays a key role in facilitating faster economic growth. My Government is committed to provide good civic infrastructure for which a provision of ₹ 53.32 crore has been earmarked to carry out works like formation, widening, strengthening and improvement of all roads in all the 4 regions of this Union Territory. In order to prevent inundation of water in low lying areas during rainy season, ₹ 7 crore has been provided in the budget for desilting in Puducherry and Karaikal regions. Two Community Halls each one at Pathukannu and Campus of Government Quarters at Lawspet will be constructed at a cost of ₹ 5.95 crore and ₹ 5.69 crore respectively with a seating capacity of 400 each. It is proposed to construct a Civil Station at Bharathiyar Palkalaikoodam in Ariankuppam at a cost of ₹ 7 crore to accommodate various Government Departments viz., PWD., Electricity, Revenue, BDO, Women and Children Welfare and Education. Keeping the forth coming rainy season in mind in order to desilt the canals which are under the control of PWD ₹ 2 crore and ₹ 44 lakh have been allocated to Karaikal and Yanam region respectively.

83. A Comprehensive Water Supply scheme for the Urban and peri-urban areas of Puducherry District, including Augmentation of water Supply and Sewerage Project for the left-out Urban and peri-Urban areas of Puducherry, to a tune of ₹ 2,190 crore and a Comprehensive Water Supply and Sanitation schemes for Karaikal proposed at ₹ 343 crore with external financial assistance of AFD has already been sent to Government of India and it is under consideration. It is proposed to construct 1.50 lakh litres capacity OHT, 1 lakh litres capacity sump pump house and allied works, each one at Sermumavilangai and Athipadugai villages at a cost of ₹ 1.72 crore and ₹ 1.80 crore respectively. Check dam across the river Sankaraparani at Chettipet village in Mannadipet Commune, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 9.15 crore and High Level bridge and check dam across Sankaraparani river at Konerikuppam village in Villianur Commune, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 34.80 crore are to be constructed.

84. Under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), rejuvenation of 20 irrigation tanks in Puducherry region would be taken up at a cost of

₹ 10 crore. The desilting and dredging component of the tank rejuvenation work will be undertaken by the Eri Sangams, as these associations have the expertise and played a lead role in the erstwhile Tank Rehabilitation Project. My Government feels that co-option of these Eri Sangams in this project would facilitate community management of these precious social assets which will not only help to improve water conservation and management but also safeguard the existing lakes from the influence of encroachment. As regards the remaining 64 lakes in Puducherry and 2 lakes in Karaikal, to begin with, seed money would be given to these Eri Sangams which can take up desilting and other minor works of the tanks under their jurisdiction. An amount of ₹ 3.5 crore would be made available for this. Later, these tanks will be taken up for rejuvenation, renovation and restoration as part of District Irrigation Plan under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) by the Agriculture Department. The Government Order issued during the Tank Rehabilitation Project on sharing of usufructuary rights between the Eri Sangams and Local Bodies would be revived and the same *modus operandi* will be followed in respect of the management of 84 irrigation tanks in Puducherry.

85. As a long term measure, to activate flood water discharge properly without inundation, it is proposed to redesign the storm water drainage arrangements in Puducherry Town. It is proposed to develop the Mini lakes in the premises of PIPDIC Industrial Growth Centre at Polagam village and at Padutharkollai village in T.R. Pattinam Commune, Karaikal. In Yanam region, it is proposed to construct drains for Kuriampeta and Ayyanna Nagar, Subhadra Nagar, French channel road, Kanakalapeta village and roads and drains in Brahmanandam colony at an estimated cost of ₹ 6.06 crore.

86. The Government is extending various civic and infrastructural facilities like roads, drainage system, power and water conveyance systems, solid waste disposal etc. to institutions by investing huge public funds. My Government is of the view that these public utilities are liberally used by institutions such as colleges, educational institutions, hospitals, production units, etc. without any pecuniary returns to the exchequer. Therefore, my Government has decided to impose a levy called as "Institutional Infrastructure Development Fee" on these institutions the details of which will be finalized shortly. To facilitate safe anchoring of

fishing boats of the fishermen of Veerampattinam at new harbour a sum of ₹ 6 crore has been allotted. It has been decided to bring million tones of goods from Chennai to Puducherry through sea route and to send it to southern States by signing MoU between Government of Puducherry and Chennai Port Trust in this year. MoU in this regard will be signed shortly in the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Shipping Thiru Pon. Radhakrishnan.

PORT

87. I am happy to inform the House that my Government has initiated action to develop Puducherry Port under the "Sagarmala" scheme envisaged by the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India. Funding will be obtained from the Ministry of Shipping to the tune of ₹ 15 crore to carry out dredging at the New Port of Puducherry which would facilitate revival of commercial cargo handling operations at Puducherry Port. The developer of Karaikal Port has proposed to develop a LNG import terminal facility at Karaikal Port with a capacity of 5 MTPA (one Million Ton Per Annum) to supply natural gas to the Gas Power plants at Karaikal and adjacent Tamil Nadu area. The field level implementation of the pilot project of

"Puducherry Beach Restoration" to restore the beaches lost along the shoreline of Puducherry coast has been taken up in association with M/s. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, a Government of India organization.

88. The assets of the Port *viz.* godowns and adjoining vacant land shall be leased out to end users to generate revenue to the department. Action is also being taken to dredge a quantity of ₹ 3 lakh cubic metres of sand in the Ariankuppam River Mouth and nourish the beach between Old Port and Gandhi statue using the dredged sand during the financial year 2016-17.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

89. I am happy to inform the House that my Government has proposed to construct an Oceanarium at Manapet, Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹ 290 crore through National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, for which ₹ 50 lakh has already been sanctioned by Ministry of Earth Sciences for pre-feasibility study. In addition, the said Institute is also carrying out a pilot scale project on "Restoration of Pondicherry Beach" at cost of ₹ 30 crore, through construction of Offshore

Multipurpose Reef and Beach nourishment. Project on Integrated surface water management through rejuvenation of 32 village ponds towards the Climate Change Adaptation in Puducherry will be implemented. A similar Science Centre-cum-Planetarium is proposed in the temple town of Thirunallar, Karaikal at an estimated cost of ₹ 6 crore.

TRANSPORT

90. My Government desires to improve and strengthen the transport sector, through various initiatives. For the current year 2016-17, an amount of ₹ 12.58 crore has been provisioned in the budget. During the year 2015-16, the department was able to collect revenue of ₹ 69.34 crores. The target for the current year is ₹ 83 crore.

91. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that the proposal of this Government for double track railway link between Puducherry and Cuddalore is now under active consideration of Railways. The process of laying Broad gauge railway line between Karaikal and Peralam will be expedited.

92. Testing of new software to be used in Transport Department namely Vahan and Sarathi-Version 4.0 development by NIC is in progress and the services of Transport Department to public will be available online shortly. A comprehensive Mobility Plan for infrastructure development ensuring better and safer roads for Puducherry has been prepared which will form part of the Comprehensive Development Plan for Puducherry. All the entry check posts of Transport Department presently functioning in temporary structures in Puducherry and Karaikal are proposed to be converted into permanent structures.

93. Under the guidelines of UNO, an institutional and legal framework comprising of Road Safety Policy, a Road Safety Action Plan and Road Safety Fund has been notified with the aim to bring down the accident rate to 50% by 2020. Considering the increasing vehicular traffic, the Transport Department will be strengthened to ensure effective implementation of Road Safety and better services to the public. To provide better transport facilities, "Transport Act" is to be enacted.

94. The plying of E-rickshaw within the Boulevard area of Pondicherry town on pilot basis was notified last year, but there was lack of response due to area restriction. In order to promote E-rickshaws as part of environment friendly initiative, my Government will issue permits for plying of E-rickshaws in all the areas of Puducherry without any area restriction.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

95. Master Plan for Puducherry and Karaikal regions will be completed soon. Improvement works in the New Bus Stand at Puducherry will be taken up. Installation of traffic signals in the important and major road junctions in various places of Puducherry will be taken up. I am happy to inform that the "Karaikal Urban Development Scheme" has been approved by the Government of India.

96. I am to inform that this Government will take all appropriate steps to include Puducherry as one in the list of Smart City announced by Government of India. All steps will be taken to develop all infrastructure facilities and implement the same with approval of Central Government.

97. The Scheme of "Purunthalaivar Kamarajar Centenary Housing Scheme" and "The Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme" (for SC beneficiaries) will be dovetailed with the central Scheme "Prime Minister Awaas Yojana" so as to cover more number of beneficiaries. A demand survey is proposed to be conducted soon. Puducherry will be made as Hut Free State.

REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

98. I am happy to announce that as a step towards "Digital Puducherry", a Mission Mode Project (MMP) viz., "e-District", is underway in which the services provided by the Government are being digitalised under the scheme. In addition to the issue of various certificates viz., Residence, Nationality, Income and Community through online application, action is being initiated to issue Encumbrance Certificate for which Digitization of the corresponding Registers in the Sub-Registries of Puducherry and Oulgaret have been completed and the remaining Registries are under process.

99. There has been representations from various sections that the GLR values used by the Registration Department for collection of stamp duty is very high and

this is impacting the extent of registration and revenue collection. Registration statistics do reveal that there is stagnation both in the number of registrations and the revenue collection. My Government proposed to reduce the existing GLR value by 25% for the year 2016-17. Computerised FMB copies will be issued to the general public through Common Service Centres (CSC). In order to monitor the vulnerable areas from State Level Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) during disaster CCTV cameras will be installed under “e-Eye” scheme.

LABOUR

100. My Government desires to notify the minimum rates of wages to revise minimum rates of wages in respect of employment in tailoring industries, carpentry and blacksmith industries, loading and unloading operations, taxi and auto drivers.

101. Online licensing system has been installed as part of ease of doing business in respect of Factories Act, 1948, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, Interstate Migrant Workmen Act, 1979 and Shops and Establishments Act, 1964. A model career centre

is being set up in the Puducherry Employment Exchange at a cost of ₹ 50 lakh and the District Employment Exchange will be notified as the District Skill Development Agency.

102. Apprenticeship Training Scheme will be brought under online and the insurance coverage for apprentices will be increased from ₹ 3 lakh to ₹ 4 lakh and the placement cell will be strengthened with more focus on international employment.

103. My Government proposes to notify a labour policy in order to promote harmonious relationship between employee and employer with focus on skill development, welfare and prosperity.

104. All the Skill Development Programmes being implemented by the line departments will be brought under the umbrella of Puducherry Skill Development Mission and steps will be taken to create 10,000 employable skills every year. A Livelihood College will be setup to offer Skill Development Programmes with focus on school dropouts. To facilitate placement, a dedicated website will be created for Skill Development. 1,000 school dropouts registered with the Employment Exchanges will be equipped with employable skills with an assured placement in a phased manner

per year. It is proposed to setup Pre-examination Training Centres in urban and rural areas to equip the students aspiring for competitive examinations.

105. My Government proposes to bring 7 Government ITIs functioning in Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam and Mahe as ISO Certified Institutions. The Government ITI (Men), Mettupalayam, Puducherry will be upgraded as Model ITI at a cost of ₹ 5 crore. Steps will be taken to open a new ITI at Thirunallar, Karaikal region.

106. For the benefit of the children of construction and other related workers, Tuition Centres will be setup in rural pockets. The families of the construction workers who die in harness will be provided with a financial assistance of ₹ 2.25 lakh from the Board own fund and ₹ 75,000 from insurance coverage which totals ₹ 3 lakh. The construction workers who sustain disability during the work will be provided with a financial assistance of ₹ 75,000 in addition to the benefits available under the Insurance Scheme from the Board's own funds. A sum of ₹ 5,000 will issued as financial assistance to the registered construction workers during monsoon season. Further, my Government has decided to grant financial assistance to a tune of ₹ 10 lakh to Aimbom Labour Welfare Society.

SOCIAL WELFARE

107. My Government is paying special attention to the differently abled persons. An amount of ₹ 51.12 crore is earmarked for payment of monthly financial assistance to the differently abled persons for the year 2016-17. Under "Integrated Child Protection Scheme", 55 homes are being run covering 1,670 children. Financial assistance is provided to the NGOs who are running home continuously for a period of three years for the cause of senior citizens, differently abled, mentally challenged and other vulnerable sections of the society.

ADI-DRAVIDAR WELFARE

108. My Government has vowed to ensure that the budgetary allocation made under the Special Component Plan is fully utilized. In order to eradicate disparity and to bring about equality in the society, the schemes and programmes will be implemented to improve the living conditions of the SC people. The Plan allocation made for the year 2016-17 under the Adi-Draavidar Welfare Department is ₹ 155 crore. In order to honour the Late Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 125th Birth Anniversary, this Government

desires to provide all financial assistance for prosecuting higher studies for those students belongs to SC community and got first position in their studies in 10th, 12th, ITI, Polytechnic, Degree in Arts and Science, Engineering and Medicine.

109. Under the scheme for financial assistance to pregnant and lactating women the benefits will be provided on time. An amount of ₹ 7.93 crore has been provided for distribution of free dhoties and sarees to beneficiaries. All the medical and engineering SC students will get the financial assistance at enhanced rate for which an amount of ₹ 9 crore has been allocated. ₹ 57.10 crore has been provided in the current financial year under Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Housing subsidy for construction of new building and damaged house for 2,502 beneficiaries.

110. My Government is taking swift action to provide the assistance of ₹ 50,000 for performing marriage of SC bride in the current year itself. It is proposed to enhance the monthly stipend from ₹ 750 to ₹ 1,500 for

the welfare scheme "Vocational Training and Aid" to SC beneficiaries in cutting and tailoring. Evening tuition centres will be revamped. The 28 hostels will be renovated with necessary facilities and students will be provided with good and hygienic food for better living for which an amount of ₹ 1.65 crore earmarked in the budget.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

111. My Government is devoting special attention towards the development and empowerment of women and children through effective implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services in convergence with the Health Department. The maternal and infant mortality rate and the malnutrition among the children aged up to 6 years is lowest in the Union Territories of Puducherry among the States and other Union Territory in the country. It is targeted to provide supplementary nutrition for 365 days of the year to 40,000 children and 10,000 pregnant and lactating mothers through the 855 Anganwadi Centers of this Union Territory. My Government is keen in the welfare of the vulnerable section of the society, the Old Age

People, Widows, Destitute Women and Transgenders. In the current financial year a sum of ₹ 300 crore has been earmarked for the payment of their monthly pension in time, to fulfil their basic needs. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao schemes implemented in the Yanam District of the Union Territory with the funds received from the Government of India to prevent female infanticide and ensure survival, protection and education of girl child. ₹ 5,000 will be issued as interest free loan to 1 lakh women. Once in three years Master Health Checkup will be extended to women whose age is more than 40.

PLANNING AND FINANCE

112. The Government of Puducherry is implementing the Treasury Mission Mode Project in the current financial year. Under this project, the Budget Estimation and Monitoring System (BEAMS) and Government Receipt Accounting System (GRAS), will be made operational with effect from 01-10-2016. Under this BEAMS system, the daily expenditure management of Government will be done online without any manual intervention. The Demands for Grants passed by this august House will be distributed to the Heads of Departments by

the Finance Department through the system without manual intervention. The Heads of Departments will allocate the approved grants to Heads of Offices which will enable the DDOs to generate the authorization slip to present the bill to DAT. This will help the all the stakeholders to monitor the expenditure on day-to-day basis.

113. Under the Government Receipt Accounting System (GRAS), receipts will be collected online. This will facilitate the citizens to pay the Government taxes, charges, fees, etc. by availing the net banking facility of the 45 designated banks in addition by cash payment at the SBI counter. This will facilitate the HODs to ascertain the daily receipt of their department. The implementation of the Treasury Mission Mode Project will bring efficiency in budget process, improve the cash flow management and hassle free real time accounts of both receipt and expenditure.

114. During this year it is proposed to integrate our State treasury with the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) of Government of India through which the fund flow towards all grants including Centrally Sponsored Schemes will be managed. The expenditure details under CSS will

be uploaded for monitoring by Government of India. Hon'ble Members may be aware that as a major fiscal and budgetary reforms, the Government of India is going to discontinue the practice of classifying expenditure as 'plan' and 'non-plan' while retaining the distinction on the basis of 'Revenue' and 'Capital' expenditures from financial year 2017-18. In line with the Union Government's practice, the Union Territory of Puducherry will also be moving to the 'Revenue' and 'Capital' method of classification of expenditures. Therefore, I urge all the departments to prepare themselves for transition to the new budgetary system from 2017-18.

115. Presently, the financial assistance *viz.* Old Age Pension, Widow Pension etc. are disbursed through Aadhaar seeded bank accounts and it has been noticed that the beneficiaries have to undergo severe hardship to draw the money from banks. In order to deliver the assistance at the doorstep of beneficiaries, my Government will initiate necessary action to utilize the services of Business Correspondents of Banks to deliver the cash assistance to the beneficiaries through mini-ATM machines. This will be rolled out within this year end.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

116. My Government stands for freedom of the press and will create a conducive atmosphere for the free and fair functioning of the media in the Union Territory of Puducherry. My Government will take active interest in the welfare of media persons. The Medical Insurance Scheme for media persons will be operationalised within this year. It is proposed to enhance the financial assistance from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 50,000 for those journalist serving more than 10 years and grant the same from Chief Minister's relief fund. Pension given to the senior media persons who have attained the age of 58 years with 20 years of service as media person, will be enhanced from ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 7,000 per month.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

117. DRDA is implementing various poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes as per the guidelines of the Government of India to extend livelihood support and ensure guaranteed employment to the rural poor people of the Union Territory of Puducherry. Action will be

initiated to increase employment opportunities to the rural people under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

118. In Puducherry region, in order to improve the business, the Traders Association has requested to reduce the rate of taxes on various commodities. In consideration of their request my Government will announce the tax concession/reduction, shortly.

119. My Government will not hesitate to approach and consult the people to tap the resources which is required for the all-round development of Union Territory of Puducherry especially, for improving the socio-economic conditions of the people. My Government will continue to meet the Central Ministers and officials to get additional Central assistance and other grants for implementation of Central schemes.

120. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the budget for the year 2016-17 before this House and solicit the esteemed support of the Hon'ble Members in this regard.

VANAKKAM !

CLEAN-INDIA



GREEN-PUDUCHERRY