सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Address by

Dr. TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

to

THE PUDUCHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

10th August, 2022

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நன்றே தரினும் நடுவிகந்தாம் ஆக்கத்தை
அன்றே யொழிய விடல். — **குறள்**

Though only good it seem to give, yet gain
By wrong acquired, not e'en one day retain.
— ***Kural***

Hon'ble Speaker and distinguished Members of this august House,

I welcome all of you to this third session of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly and convey my greetings and best wishes at the outset.

2. I am indeed, happy to share with the Hon'ble Members that we all are proud in commemorating the 75 years of progressive India. As an initiative, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" is being celebrated throughout the country to honour our 75th anniversary of Independence and the glorious history of its people, socio-cultural, political, economic identity and achievements. The official journey of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" was commenced in the Union Territory of Puducherry and it is celebrated throughout the year. Hon'ble Members are well aware that all the Government functions and festivals are being celebrated based on "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" theme.

3. No one can simply pass over the impact of pandemic disease COVID-19 which badly affects the socio-economic development throughout the world. With the sincere efforts taken by this Administration, like vaccination campaigns and following various strategies the second wave was managed without any major impacts. Hon'ble Members know that with the existing health infrastructure, we are in a strong position to withstand challenges.

4. On the financial implication, this Government has incurred an expenditure to a tune of ₹ 9,793.29 crore as against the total outlay of ₹ 10,414 crore in 2021-22 which works out to 94.04% of total outlay. The expenditure incurred is the highest in last 4 years. In addition, we have achieved a record high of 104% of revenue targets. Further, Government of India has also offered the flexibility to decide the source of borrowings without exceeding the borrowing limit fixed under net borrowing ceiling limit. This helps to avail the borrowings at a lower cost and also to the maximum extent.

5. I would like to share with the Hon'ble Members that the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is one of the vital indicators to measure the economic development as well as to study the sectoral growth in a State. The per capita state domestic product is used to determine both the absolute and relative performance of the economy of the State. The GSDP of the Union Territory had been estimated at ₹ 38,285 crore (current price) for 2021-22 which is 2.90% higher than the previous year. The per capita income of Puducherry increased from ₹ 2,15,583 (current price) for the year 2020-21 to ₹ 2,16,495 (current price) for the year 2021-22, showing a growth rate of 0.42%.

6. With these, I wish to highlight some of the major initiatives/achievements made by this Government under various sectors during the previous year 2021-22:

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

7. This Government is showing keen interest on the welfare of farming community through its strategic interventions for productivity enhancement in Agriculture

and Horticulture on scientific lines and technology driven to ensure increased income of the farming community by the implementation of various schemes and programmes.

8. To promote large scale adoption of improved technologies for increased productivity, crop based production incentives by direct benefit transfer @ ₹ 10,000/acre for paddy for two seasons, ₹ 10,000/acre for sugarcane & cotton, ₹ 3,000/acre for sesame, ₹ 5,000/ acre for groundnut, ₹ 2,000/acre for pulses, ₹ 5,000/acre for millets, ₹ 8,000/acre for fodder crops had been extended. Accordingly, an amount of ₹ 6.24 crore, benefitting 9,493 farmers in Puducherry region and an amount of ₹ 6.94 crore benefitting 7,082 farmers in Karaikal region has been extended as production incentives in 2021-22.

9. Back ended subsidy was disbursed @ ₹ 12,000/acre for Banana, ₹ 12,500/acre for country vegetables, ₹ 18,750/acre for winter vegetables and ₹ 6,250/acre for cultivation of gourds. As such, ₹ 86.71 lakh was incurred as expenditure and 2,112 farmers in Puducherry region and 20 farmers in Karaikal region were benefitted. For promoting homestead gardens

in Puducherry and Karaikal region, 3,600 vegetable seed Mini Kits and 200 fruit mini kits were distributed to the general public in urban and rural areas at a cost of ₹ 8.50 lakh. Production incentives of ₹ 53 lakh has been disbursed to 1,997 farmers for cultivation of coconut covering 706 hectare and ₹ 15 lakh has been extended to 230 farmers for cultivation of Tapioca. Under the Coconut Development Board Scheme, financial assistance to a tune of ₹ 3.66 lakh has been given to 42 farmers for demonstration plots, ₹ 4.18 lakh has been provided to the Government farms/KVK for production of quality coconut seedlings and for laying out of demonstration plots.

10. Through the scheme, "National Horticulture Mission", financial assistance of ₹ 4 lakh was disbursed to two beneficiaries for construction of pack house and ₹ 20 lakh was extended to 12 beneficiaries for establishment of Mushroom production units at Puducherry and Karaikal region. For area expansion under horticultural crops back ended subsidy of ₹ 29.42 lakh was provided to 515 farmers covering an area of 183 hectare. Subsidy of ₹ 1.36 lakh was released to 10 beneficiaries to

practice plastic mulching. ₹ 3.12 lakh was disbursed as subsidy to one farmer for erection of shade net house and ₹ 3.14 lakh was given as subsidy to 7 farmers for establishment of permanent structure of Vermicompost Units to promote organic farming. For the construction of Farm ponds 3 beneficiaries in Karaikal region were paid financial assistance of ₹ 2.25 lakh under the component "Creation of water resources, water harvesting system".

11. Subsidy to a tune of ₹ 90.37 lakh has been released to 37 general farmers and 13 SC farmers towards the purchase of 31 tractors, 10 power tillers, 6 self-propelled machines and 3 tractor driven implements in Puducherry region. Further, subsidy to a tune of ₹ 14.99 lakh has been provided to 4 general farmers and 1 SC farmer towards the purchase of 4 tractors, 1 power tiller in Karaikal region under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the crop insurance scheme, the claims for Rabi 2019-20 to a tune of ₹ 7.15 crore to 9,085 farmers were settled by the National Insurance Company Ltd., during 2021-22. Further,

under this scheme, 2,343 hectare during Kharif 2021 and nearly 9,000 hectare during Rabi 2021-22 covering 13,178 farmers has been brought under insurance coverage in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam region.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

12. In view of high potential in generating subsidiary income and production of protein rich food, this Government has accorded more priority to sustain the livestock health and productivity.

13. During 2021-22, free treatments were given to 2,13,636 cases of livestock, poultry and pet animals. Further, preventive vaccinations were also given to 38,488 cases of livestock, poultry and pet animals. 36,281 artificial inseminations have been done to produce desirable future stock through which 5,246 calves of desirable superior germplasm were born. In addition, superior germplasm semen of malabari bucks were also inseminated to 400 country goats. 24 hours emergency clinic has been functioning in the Directorate campus for providing emergency treatment to sick animals.

14. For veterinary education, grant-in-aid to an extent of ₹ 19.02 crore has been released to Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER), Puducherry. Area specific mineral mixture produced by RIVER for farmers, helped to improve the health and milk production of cattle. Approximately, 5,000 kg of mineral mixture was distributed to farmers during the crisis period in three villages under the pilot scheme with the collaboration of Department of Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare and PONLAIT. The result shows that feeding of mineral mixture increases the milk production by 4.02%, 5.3% and 8.67% at Korkadu, Poornankuppam and Kombakkam villages respectively. The increase in milk production will be more evident if the farmer feeds continuously.

15. Training on fodder production and management were given for 71 farmers of Kalapet and Thavalakuppam villages under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) programme. Skill development training on value added milk products for 30 self-help group members of Puducherry Municipalities under National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) programme was also provided.

ART AND CULTURE

16. Art and Culture plays an important role in the development of any nation. Culture and creativity manifest themselves in almost all social, economic and other activities. In order to encourage, this Government has provided the financial assistance to a tune of ₹ 45.90 lakh to 182 Indigent Artists, 5 Tamil Scholars and 70 Awardees of Kalaimamani at the rate of ₹ 1,650, ₹ 2,200 and ₹ 3,250 per month to the age group upto 59 years, 60 to 79 years, 80 and above respectively.

17. For the benefits of artists during the corona pandemic time, the online Folk Dance/Music Festival has been conducted in association with South Zone Cultural Centre. As such, 35 folk dance/music troupes were remunerated @ ₹ 15,000 each to a tune of ₹ 5.25 lakh. The financial assistance to the Indigent Artists, Tamil Scholars and Awardees of Kalaimamani/ Tamil Mamani/Telugu Ratna/Malayala Ratna has been enhanced by an amount of ₹ 500.

18. On account of 75th Independence Day "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" a series of cultural events were organized. Accordingly, ten cultural events were conducted for 17 days and iconic events week was celebrated for 5 days at Beach Road, Gandhi Thidal, Puducherry. During the course of events dance, painting and sand art camp was conducted and two folk cultural events were also conducted for 2 days in Karaikal.

19. An amount of ₹ 12 lakh had been spent towards purchase of career guidance books for the benefit of the SC Youth at the Government Branch Libraries located in the SC densely populated areas. The modernisation works for an amount of ₹ 76 lakh for Dr. S.R. Ranganathan Library, Karaikal has been completed.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

20. During the last financial year under the scheme "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" (AAY) an amount of ₹ 12.05 crore was spent by Government of India on monthly basis by which around 1.78 lakh family ration card holders got benefitted. As such, under the

State Free Rice Scheme of Government of Puducherry, an amount of ₹ 5,000 to each BPL/AAY cards and ₹ 4,500 to each APL cards has been credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries in order to mitigate from the difficulties caused due to the incessant rainfall during North-East monsoon 2021 as rain relief. For this an amount of ₹ 156 crore has been incurred as expenditure in the Financial Year 2021-22 through which around 3.28 lakh family ration card holders benefitted.

CO-OPERATION

21. A sum of ₹ 46.31 lakh has been released for the Handloom Development Scheme and a sum of ₹ 45.45 lakh has been released for the Weavers Welfare Scheme as Grant-in-aid to PONTEX, PONFAB and 11 Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies functioning in the Puducherry and Mahe region. The Pondicherry State Co-operative Bank has purchased a ATM mobile van in order to provide banking facilities to rural people with NABARD's financial assistance. ₹ 34 crore was provided

to the Pondicherry Co-operative Sugar Mill towards payment of salaries, wages and other payments payable to the employees of the sugar mill.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

22. It is well known to the Hon'ble Members that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human lives worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating. Due to the serious effort effectively initiated by this Administration, the pandemic disease is now in control. During 2021-22, around 90% of population was administered 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccination and around 71% of population was covered by 2nd dose.

23. I am happy to share on this occasion to the Hon'ble Members that Puducherry ranks first in All India Ranking for Health Wellness Centres (HWCs) among the Union Territories/States in the country. As against the target of 44, to transform Primary Health Centres/ Urban Primary Health Centres/Subsidiary Health Centres

into HWCs, all the 126 centres were converted into HWCs. In all the HWCs expanded range of services are provided including strengthening of existing Reproductive and Child Health, communicable diseases related services and introduction of new services packages *viz.,* Non-Communicable Diseases, Ophthalmology, ENT, Oral, Mental Health, Elderly, Palliative and Emergency medical care services.

24. During the last year, the essential infrastructure facilities and up-gradation of medical services have been created in Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Post Graduate Institute, Puducherry which includes (i) RT PCR by TRUENAT installed during the COVID pandemic, (ii) Conversion of all the beds in the in-patient block as oxygen beds, (iii) Upgradation of Nephro Intensive Care, (iv) Commencement of stroke ward under the auspices of Department of Neurology, (v) Renovation of Intensive Coronary Care Unit, (vi) Re-commissioning of Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgical Services and (vii) Modernisation of lifts in Agathiar Block, In-patient Block and Dhanavantri Block.

25. Government General Hospital, Yanam has been provided with life-saving essential equipments and services *viz.*, (i) Central oxygen pipeline has been arranged for 70 beds including ICU, (ii) 100 LPM oxygen generator plants have been installed and commissioned, (iii) 2 ICU rooms had been setup for the emergency purpose, (iv) 73 D-type oxygen cylinders have been arranged for uninterrupted oxygen supply, (v) 30 Oxygen concentrators have been supplied and (vi) 14 Multi Para Monitors have been provided for tackling the pandemic situation.

26. It is an appreciable task that this Union Territory has continuously achieved 100% full immunization coverage for the last three years to prevent eleven vaccine preventable diseases *i.e.* Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis-B, Meningitis/ Pneumonia, Rotavirus and Pneumococcal. Now the Union Territory Government has introduced the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) for the benefit of the children to prevent disease and deaths due to Pneumococcal disease in children. In order to upgrade the medical

services in Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital, Puducherry, New Continuous Cardiotocography (CTG) wireless machine, ventilators, Oxygen concentrators, ten CPAP/BPAP Machine, PSA oxygen generator plant were installed.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

27. Hon'ble Members admit that the goal of technical education is to play a vital role in human resource development of a country by creating skilled manpower, enhancing industrial productivity and improving the quality of life. It is well known that to promote the Higher and Technical Education, this Government is continuously disbursing financial assistance to the students who got admission through CENTAC and pursuing professional higher education. As such, ₹ 40 crore was involved in disbursing the benefits to 9,214 students in total which comprises of 900 Medical students, 7,290 Engineering students and 1,024 Nursing students.

28. It is one of the constructive initiative of this Government that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the establishment of a National School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) for an estimate of ₹ 334.30 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India for approval.

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

29. Hon'ble Members know that fisheries and aquaculture plays an important role in economic development due to its vital contribution to employment, food & nutritional security, foreign exchange earnings and income, especially to the coastal populations. Knowing the fact, this Government protects fisheries and fishermen welfare through various programmes. Accordingly, ban relief assistance @ ₹ 5,500 amounting to ₹ 10 crore was provided to 18,199 families in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam region during the ban period of 61 days. Further, lean relief assistance @ ₹ 2,500 amounting to ₹ 4.35 crore was provided to 17,406 families during the lean period.

30. Old age pension amounting to ₹ 15.91 crore was granted to existing 7,973 aged fishers in the Union Territory of Puducherry which includes 577 new beneficiaries. The quantum of financial assistance for Old Age Pension scheme to fishers have been enhanced from ₹ 1,570 to ₹ 2,500 for age group 50 to 59 years, ₹ 2,090 to ₹ 3,000 for age group 60 to 79 years and from ₹ 3,135 to ₹ 4,000 for the 80 years and above from the month of November, 2021 onwards.

31. Immediate death relief to a tune of ₹ 12 lakh was released to six nominees of the deceased fishers families of Union Territory of Puducherry @ ₹ 2 lakh each. Under the scheme "Reactivation charges to the registered boat owners during the fishing ban period" an amount of ₹ 63.90 lakh were extended to the 352 registered boat owners. 75 % subsidy to a tune of ₹ 10.85 lakh towards annual premium was paid to the 221 registered mechanized boat owners for insuring the boats during 2021-22. An amount of ₹ 15.41 lakh was reimbursed under the scheme "Supply of fishery requisites" at 50% to the fishers.

32. Under the sub-component "Livelihood and nutritional support for socio-economically backward, active traditional fishers families for conservation of fisheries resources during fish ban/lean period" in Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana scheme, totally 21,371 beneficiaries were extended with central share along with individual contribution to a tune of ₹ 9.61 crore directly to the beneficiaries account.

33. In order to facilitate fishermen to benefit under State/CSS scheme being implemented and to render assistance during natural calamity time, camp office was set up in all coastal fishing villages in Puducherry and officials were deployed. SMS alert facility has been initiated to alert all the fishermen in Puducherry and Karaikal region quickly without any delay on the cyclone/ adverse weather. As such, it cautions the fishermen not to venture into sea as well as to return to the shore for those who are already in the sea.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

34. Website of Integrated Temple Management System including Mobile application and Geographic Information System for the transparent management of temples was

launched. Annadhanam was commenced in 5 temples at Puducherry and 2 temples in Karaikal region. ₹ 2.42 crore was disbursed as grant-in-aid to purview and non-purview temples for renovation/repair works. ₹ 40 lakh was provided to 200 temples in Puducherry and Karaikal Regions @ ₹ 20,000 per annum for performing Oru Kala Pooja to each temple. Kumbabishekam was performed in 7 temples in Puducherry and Karaikal region. Towards payment of pension to 10 retired Ulemas of Registered Wakf Board @ ₹ 2,000 p.m. and Educational Scholarship to 1,000 minority muslim students an amount of ₹ 21 lakh was granted. ₹ 23.50 lakh was disbursed to 3 registered mosques for renovation/repair works through the Puducherry State Wakf Board.

INDUSTRIES

35. Hon'ble Members may admit that this Administration is very keen on improving industrial development in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Accordingly, under the "Training" Scheme, 126 educated unemployed youths were given In-plant Training with stipend in various trades, out of which 32 were SC candidates. Also, new batch of In-plant Training is ongoing, wherein 78 persons are

being trained. Further, 123 candidates are selected to undergo Advanced/High Skilled Training which is imparted by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Chennai.

36. Under the scheme "Development of Handicrafts", handicrafts training with stipend were given to 150 unemployed rural youths of which 31 were SC youths. Also, new batch of handicraft training has been started, wherein 180 persons have been trained with an estimated cost of ₹ 56.60 lakh. Under the scheme of "Development of Coir Industries", 89 persons were given coir rope and coir mat making training with stipend, of which 15 were SC candidates. Further, under the same scheme a new batch of coir training has been started and 120 persons were trained for which ₹ 65.56 lakh has been spent.

37. In order to motivate the unemployed person to start self-employed enterprises, an amount of ₹ 91.53 lakh was sanctioned as loan to 134 entrepreneurs through various banks and they received the subsidy to a tune of ₹ 37.03 lakh, thereby they started self-employment ventures. Through the scheme of Prime Minister's

Employment Generation Programme, loan was sanctioned to a tune of ₹ 3.24 crore to 50 entrepreneurs for starting their own venture with a subsidy amount of ₹ 1.05 crore.

38. For establishing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in this Union Territory 55 Single Window Applications were received from various Entrepreneurs and the applications were cleared and forwarded to various line departments for the issue of necessary licenses/permissions. In this regard, 32 weekly review-*cum*-facilitation meetings have been conducted with the line departments to facilitate the clearances to start the industries.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

39. In order to ease the public, this Government has initiated action to setup Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the camp office of Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly in their respective Constituencies. 179 CSCs are functioning in the Union Territory of Puducherry *i.e.*, 121 in Puducherry, 46 in Karaikal, 5 in Mahe and 7 in Yanam.

40. The mission of e-Vidhan Mission Mode Project (MMP) is to make Puducherry Legislative Assembly, as paperless legislatures, streamlining all the processes for information exchange with the different State Government Departments and to publish the contents on the public portal as it happens. Further, it also aims to assist the Members of the Union Territory's Legislature to use the latest Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools for preparing themselves for participation in the legislative debates more effectively. A MoU has been signed and preparation of Detailed Project Report is in progress.

LABOUR WELFARE

41. For online registration/license/renewal of establishments, software modules was developed through the portal Labour Enforcement Administrative Data System. 50 Industrial Training Programmes were conducted and both management/workers were benefitted. Apart from this, 14 trade union applications have been verified and reports sent to the Registrar of Trade Union for registration under the Trade Union Act, 1926. 106 industrial dispute cases were disposed through which wage revision settlements was made which benefitted many employees.

42. In the Puducherry Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, 36,234 members were enrolled. Various Welfare measures were extended to the members. As such, maternity benefit extended to 70 beneficiaries @ ₹ 5,000 for ₹ 3.50 lakh, funeral assistance extended to 74 beneficiaries @ ₹ 7,000 for ₹ 5.18 lakh, death benefit extended to 97 beneficiaries @ ₹ 70,000 for ₹ 67.90 lakh, marriage assistance extended to 75 beneficiaries @ ₹ 7,000 for ₹ 5.25 lakh, medical assistance extended to 28 beneficiaries @ ₹ 500 for ₹ 14,000, deepavali gift coupon extended to 40,369 beneficiaries including senior citizens @ ₹ 3,000 for ₹ 12.11 crore and rain relief assistance of ₹ 4,000 was also released to the enrolled members.

43. "The Puducherry Un-organised Labourers Welfare Society" provides deepavali cash gift @ ₹ 1,000 to its members every year and the benefits were extended to 21,094 unorganized workers for ₹ 2.11 crore. One mega job mela was conducted at the premises of Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Puducherry and around 25 private establishments have participated in the job mela.

44. Under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, 11,521 inspections have been conducted by the Labour Department's Enforcement authorities in all regions of this Union Territory. Due to COVID-19 outbreak and to avoid crowd auto-renewal was made to the registrants during the year 2021 and 18,636 candidates were benefitted. A Youtube channel has been started exclusively for the Employment Exchange and all programs that have been conducted are uploaded in the Youtube channel for reference of the candidates. Immediate Rehabilitation Compensation of ₹ 20,000 each has been paid to 9 Bonded Labourers who were rescued from a Brick Kiln. Apart from this, 5 Children were also rescued by the Child Welfare Committee, Puducherry.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

45. It is well known to the Hon'ble Members that apart from providing and monitoring the civic amenities including public health, some other specific tasks like Smart City Project, Urban Livelihood Mission,

Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), *etc.*, has been implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry so as to make it as a developed city. Under Smart City programme 4 projects were completed with a total cost of ₹ 1.25 crore.

46. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, entire Puducherry Urban Areas are covered to achieve highest hygiene and sanitation standards. The financial incentive was released to 5,646 beneficiaries for the construction of Individual Household Toilets (IHHTs), out of which 5,162 beneficiaries have completed the toilet construction at a cost of ₹ 20,000 to each toilet at a total expenditure of ₹ 10.32 crore. 128 community toilets and 106 public toilets have been constructed at a cost of ₹ 2.30 crore under the community toilets/public toilets sector. Further, 2 mobile toilets in Pondicherry Municipality and 2 mobile toilets in Oulgaret Municipality and 1 mobile toilet in Karaikal Municipality comes under utilization at a cost of ₹ 60 lakh. The Urban Local Bodies have handled the Solid Waste Management process by recycling, composting, vermi-composting, Methanation and Bio-Methanation at a cost of ₹ 2.93 crore.

47. Under the components of National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) scheme ₹ 2.32 crore has been released to the five Municipalities to carry out the various scheme works. Further, in order to strengthen the formation of SHGs under NULM, 1,717 SHGs were assisted with Revolving Fund as grant of ₹ 1.71 crore and 68 Area Level Federation were assisted with ₹ 34 lakh. Under Employment through Skills Training and Placement (EST&P), 1,849 of unskilled urban poor were imparted skill training courses by Skill Training Providers at an incurring expenditure of ₹ 1.81 crore. Out of the loan sanctioned for 1,333 of street vendors through various banks, loan was disbursed to 1,251 of street vendors @ ₹ 10,000 to each at loan amount of ₹ 1.25 crore.

POLICE

48. The scheme "Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)" formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs is a Pan-India single number (112) based emergency response system for citizens who are in the emergency situation. The Emergency Response Centre is capable of receiving emergency calls through voice call to 112, email, panic buttons activated calls and 112 India mobile Application.

Coastal Security Scheme was formulated to strengthen the coastline of India so as to encounter any imminent threats through Sea. Coastal patrolling close to the shallow waters extending up to 12 Nautical miles is carried out by the State Police.

PORT

49. The Karaikal Port has handled 3.05 million tons of cargo during the financial year 2021-22 through which ₹ 4.09 crore revenue was realized. A Captive Marine Terminal Facility functioning at Karaikal has handled 16,821 tons of liquid cargo and ₹ 17.95 lakh revenue was earned. Conduct of Operational Audit to monitor the functioning of Karaikal Port has been completed. The work of Fabrication and supply of cutter motor for department Dredger has been completed.

ELECTRICITY

50. Under power development schemes, 14 new distribution transformers of various capacities were energised and enhanced to higher capacities. 29 Kms of HT lines and LT lines were energised. 6 new HT industrial

services and 19 LT industrial services were energised. Further, 7,216 domestic services, 1,237 commercial services, 21 agricultural services and 86 street lights were effected. 2,607 defective / stuck up Electro Mechanical Meters were converted into Electro Static Meters. Under cable conversion scheme, 67 LT overhead services were converted into underground cable system. Roof Top Solar PV power plants for a total capacity of 3 MW has been installed and connected to the Grid.

51. Under Deena Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyothi Yojana (DDUGJY) scheme, 21 distribution transformers in rural areas of Puducherry region and 7 distribution transformers in Karaikal region were energized. 50,570 LPRF meters in Puducherry region and 25,039 LPRF meters in Karaikal region were fixed in various consumer services. 850 distribution transformer meters in Puducherry and 400 distribution transformer meters in Karaikal region have been installed. 9.32 Kms of 22 KV feeder in Puducherry region and 22.86 Kms of 11 KV feeder in Karaikal region were erected.

PUBLIC WORKS

52. No one can deny that the adequate infrastructure facility is important for faster economic growth. Even though in the prevailing economic crisis, this Government has managed to incur a considerable quantum of fund to improve/develop the essential infrastructural facilities in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

53. Under comprehensive and augmentation of water supply scheme construction of OHT / double decker OHT, distribution main, pumping main, road restoration and allied works have been carried over in the Union Territory of Puducherry, of which 15 places in Puducherry and Karaikal region have been completed with an expenditure of ₹ 72.02 crore. Strengthening of existing road, construction of approach to Road Over Bridge in Puducherry, Formation of Western Bye Pass road, improvements to Nedungadu, Thiruvettakudy, Karaikalmedu roads in Karaikal and improvements to the important roads in Mahe region were completed at a cost of ₹ 85.47 crore.

54. Under "Swadesh Darshan" scheme, development of heritage circuit and coastal circuit works were completed at 6 places under Tourism sector to a tune of ₹ 59.19 crore. The work of providing barrier free services, parking and other additional facilities to the persons with disability in the Government ITI for men at Mettupalayam, ITI for women at Vambakeerapalayam, Romain Rolland Library, Adi-dravidar Welfare Department and Government ITI at Nettapakkam were completed with an estimated cost of ₹ 1.13 crore.

55. To construct open gallery (east side) and to provide other basic amenities in the stadium campus at Keezhaveli in Karaikal region an amount of ₹ 2.57 crore was incurred. In Mahe region, the repair/renovation and improvements work of all school buildings have been completed and damaged earthern embankment of Rajiv Gandhi Government ITI campus was made with retaining wall. Further, under Flood Control, civil works to a tune of ₹ 47 lakh has also been completed in Mahe region.

REVENUE

56. In order to simplify the procedures involved in the delayed registration of Hindu Marriages in the Union Territory of Puducherry, the Puducherry Hindu Marriage Registration Rules have been amended during October 2021. As per the amended rules, Hindu Marriages can be registered by the Sub-Registrar up to fifteen years from the date of marriage. In case of delay in registration beyond fifteen years and up to forty years from the date of marriage, District Registrar of marriages has been empowered to grant special permission and for delay beyond 40 years, the Special Secretary (Revenue) has been empowered to grant special permission for registration of marriage.

57. Based on the suggestion of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, for issue of legal heir certificates by Revenue Authorities in the Union Territory of Puducherry, this Government has issued a G.O. during November, 2021 empowering the Taluk Tahsildar of Taluk offices in Puducherry / Karaikal regions and Deputy Tahsildar of Sub-Taluk offices in Mahe / Yanam regions for issue of legal heir certificate. The issue of legal heir certificates

by the Tahsildars / Deputy Tahsildars eases the process of getting legal heir certificates by the general public by avoiding the stress, cumbersome exercise of filing civil suits and delays.

58. To carry out various COVID-19 related activities an amount ₹ 15.57 crore has been released to various line departments/offices from the Puducherry District Disaster Response Fund (PDDRF). An amount of ₹ 7.65 crore has been released for disbursement of COVID *ex-gratia* to 1,531 families. Under Rajiv Gandhi Social Security Scheme, financial assistance of ₹ 1.56 crore was released to 469 beneficiaries.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

59. Hon'ble Members know that one of the primary goals of this Government is to alleviate the poverty and generate employment to the rural community. Through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), 4.78 lakh mandays generated which involved an expenditure of ₹ 11.31 crore by which 74 works were completed and 38,913 rural households were benefitted. To make Puducherry ODF Plus, 70 villages

out of 108 villages have been identified for ODF Plus activities. Grey Water Management established in Manamedu village by adopting community soak pit model and two models are under process. Another 23 villages have been identified for construction of community soak pits.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

60. The learning in school is instrumental in shaping one's personality and the way the student deals with situations of life. Strengthening of School Education includes development of physical education also. In order to encourage the sports activities among the students community, 2 indoor sports facilities are constructed at Thavalakuppam in Puducherry and Kanakalapeta in Yanam. 2 Volleyball Mud Courts at Thirunallar and T.R. Pattinam at Karaikal at a cost of ₹ 10 lakh each were completed. ₹ 1.89 lakh is utilized to enroll 42 out-of-school children in 2021-22 under Non-Residential Special Training Programme.

61. The Union Territory of Puducherry won three 1st prizes and one 2nd prize at National level in Kala Utsav organized by the Ministry of Education,

Government of India. Out of which 2 first prizes were won by Government school students. As per prize tally, Union Territory of Puducherry stood top among other States in India. To inspire and motivate girl students on Girls Empowerment and for self-defence Training an amount of ₹ 51.57 lakh was utilized. ₹ 40.54 lakh was released to all Government schools for the purchase of Library Books during 2021-22.

62. Under Right to Education entitlements, an amount of ₹ 4.50 crore was spent for supply of free uniform and textbooks. ₹ 1.70 crore has been utilized for maintenance of Government schools. NCERT textbooks for I to V standard students and exercise note books for I to XII standard students including LKG & UKG have been distributed at free of cost to the students studying in the Government schools in the Union Territory of Puducherry. 69 candidates have been engaged to the post of Guest Trained Graduate Teacher on contractual basis in Languages Tamil, Telugu and Arabic.

63. In Puducherry, two new Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) were established in Maraimalai Adigal Government Higher Secondary School, Embalam and

Theerar Sathyamurthy Government Higher Secondary School, Murungapakkam at a cost of ₹ 20 lakh each. 58 students who have submitted new and innovative ideas have been awarded @ ₹ 10,000 each by the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi to prepare working model of their ideas. In the 8th National Level Exhibition-*cum*-Project Competition, Adavan Somasundaram, a VIII Standard student of Karaikal region has been ranked among the top 24 places and has won a Laptop.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

64. I am happy to inform that Eden Beach at Chinna Veerampattinam is the first beach in Puducherry awarded with the International Blue Flag Certification by Denmark based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) for maintaining the bathing water quality and meeting the blue flag criteria through the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICoM) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

65. Puducherry Pollution Control Committee (PPCC) with the technical and financial support of National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Ministry of Earth Sciences,

Chennai has installed one real time Water Quality Monitoring buoy at Puducherry Coast for Coastal Water Quality Monitoring on real time basis. Yearly and Monthly e-Science Calendars were published by the ENVIS Hub of Puducherry which contains information of major scientific events, important environmental days, birthdays of famous personalities, international days celebrated by United Nation. These e-Calendars are helpful for the Educational Institutions, Government Departments, *etc.* "Solai" a stall for alternatives of single use plastics is opened at Bahour. Consent to establish, to operate, renewal of industrial licenses are issued through online.

SOCIAL WELFARE

66. Hon'ble Members agree that this Government is implementing many welfare schemes aiming to uplift the social status of the differently abled persons and also ensure equal opportunities to them for the elevation of their position in the society like the normal persons. I am happy to say that as per the guidance of

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Unique Disability ID (UDID) Project is rolled out and 17,862 UDID cards have been issued so far in the Union Territory.

67. Under various welfare schemes implemented by this Government 20,128 differently abled persons were benefitted. The differently abled pension has been increased with ₹ 500 from the month of August, 2021. The monthly financial assistance ranging from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 3,800 were given to 20,128 differently abled persons for which an amount of ₹ 63.96 crore was utilized last year. Cash dole instead of free rice has been disbursed to 20,128 differently abled persons with an expenditure of ₹ 4.56 crore. Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarship were sanctioned to 84 differently abled students for an amount of ₹ 13.27 lakh. *Ex-gratia* is disbursed to the kin and kith of 221 differently abled persons for an amount of ₹ 22.10 lakh to carry out funeral rites of differently abled persons. Cash dole instead of free clothes have been sanctioned for an amount of ₹ 81.33 lakh to 16,265 differently abled persons. Free radio was issued to 70 visually impaired persons.

68. Sports day for the differently abled persons was held at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex. Nearly, 400 differently abled persons participated in various sports events. The prizes for the winners in the sports events and 39 State Awards were distributed on the occasion of International Day for differently abled persons.

69. Under the scheme of "National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction", awareness banner on drug abuse and prevention has been placed at various key areas in Puducherry and Karaikal on account of International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Further, drug abuse awareness programme has also been conducted for 600 children in the Child Care Institutions (CCI).

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

70. In order to safeguard the economically weaker sections of the society, this Government is implementing various welfare measures which includes distribution of constructed Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) houses and maintaining other civic facilities in the locality.

As such, tenements at Kann Doctor Thottam, Puducherry was provided and fixed with metering panel boards at an estimated cost of ₹ 97.80 lakh. Cement concrete road to the earthen lanes of Land Grant Rule (LGR) layout area covering Old and New Quarters at Dubrayapet, Puducherry was laid at an estimated cost of ₹ 23.30 lakh. Cement concrete pavement with drains at Valliyammai Nagar, Keezhakasakudy, Karaikal was created with an expenditure of ₹ 79.80 lakh.

71. So far, 15,650 houses were constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Further, approval for additional 1,510 houses have been obtained under the Beneficiary Led Construction Component from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and during 2021-22, 720 houses have been completed. To ease the public, the building plan approval for ordinary residential buildings by the Planning Authorities and regularisation of individual plots in unapproved layouts situated outside the Comprehensive Development Plan area of Puducherry and Karaikal has been made online.

TOURISM

72. Puducherry resonates tourism in the minds of people in India and abroad with its attraction like French Heritage, Beaches, Backwater and Cultural Heritage. This Government has promoted various projects over a period of time to improve tourism. After COVID situation, tourism slowly gained momentum and received a growth rate of 6.50% on tourist arrivals.

73. With the central financial assistance, the projects like Franco-Tamil Village at Murungapakkam for ₹ 4.50 crore, Cultural Complex at old distillery premises for ₹ 12.85 crore, Convention Halls at old port area for ₹ 3.75 crore, Development of Kirumampakkam lake at a cost of ₹ 6 crore, Development works at Nehru street and Grand Canal at a cost of ₹ 5.50 crore in Puducherry and improvement works at Sri Bathrakali Amman temple at Ambakarathur for ₹ 2.75 crore, Sri Jadapureswarar Temple at T.R. Pattinam for ₹ 2.65 crore, Spiritual Park for ₹ 7.50 crore and two sacred ponds for ₹ 2.20 crore at Thirunallar in Karaikal were completed. In addition, improvement works at Sri Thirukameswarar

Temple at Villianur for ₹ 4.45 crore and Sri Gangai Varaganatheeswarar temple at Thirukanchi for ₹ 5.50 crore have also been completed.

TRANSPORT

74. The long pending expectations of the travelling public is fulfilled by the Railway Board in approving the project proposal for the revised Railway alignment between Puducherry and Cuddalore. The Southern railway has issued letter of acceptance for conducting final location survey and preparation of work plan, soil investigations *etc.* In Karaikal District, work contract was finalised for the extension of broad gauge from Karaikal to Peralam. Tenders are awarded and contract was finalised for formation of railway embarkment, limited user subways, road over bridges, minor bridges, major bridges along the existing line of Karaikal - Peralam alignment by Southern Railway. Tender is ready for station building, level crossings and other buildings. For issue of Learners License and Driving License for the Women in Puducherry and Karaikal regions, Learner's License and Driving Test for Women have been conducted on Saturday of every week.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES

75. It is well known to the Hon'ble Members that this Government has taken up all the measures for all round development of Backward Classes and Minorities people in the Union Territory of Puducherry. As a part of this, for the benefit of the students of this community, ₹ 2.32 crore was incurred for running the hostels in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions.

76. Backward class meritorious students in the school final examination were awarded cash prize under Makkal Thalaivar Thiyagi V. Subbiah Award. 200 backward class students under the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship and 1,316 backward class students under the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship were benefitted during 2021-22. 3,960 students under Pre-Matric Scholarship and 596 students under Post-Matric Scholarship belonging to minority community were benefitted during 2021-22. During 2021-22, the over dues of a loan ₹ 9.42 crore was remitted to National Backward Classes and Finance Development Corporation, New Delhi.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

77. This Administration pays more attention to improve the social, economical, health and nutritional status of women and children. Accordingly, supplementary nutrition was provided for 300 days of the year to the children aged from 6 months to 6 years and Pregnant Women / Lactating Mothers enrolled under ICDS Scheme through 855 anganwadi centers. 31,332 children and 9,728 mothers were benefitted and a sum of ₹ 8.40 crore was spent under the scheme towards supply of supplementary nutrition. Further holiday feeding in the form of Take Home Ration was also being distributed to the ICDS beneficiaries.

78. Financial assistance of ₹ 25,000 towards performance of marriage of poor brides and towards marriage of daughter of widows was granted to 800 beneficiaries and 100 beneficiaries respectively. Financial assistance to parents having one girl/two girl children and parents who have undergone family planning was sanctioned to 150 beneficiaries. Financial assistance to a sum of ₹ 2.70 crore was spent to the above said schemes.

79. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) scheme, a sum of ₹ 2.48 crore has been disbursed to 4,039 pregnant women and lactating mothers for the first living child. It is well known to the Hon'ble Members that this Government is continuously supporting the old age residents, destitute, widows, unmarried women and transgenders by disbursing monthly pension. In such a way, 1,64,847 persons are being benefitted and ₹ 436.44 crore was spent during 2021-22. Further, a sum of ₹ 2 crore was spent on grant of financial assistance for performing funeral rites of 2,000 deceased pensioners.

80. On occasion of Pongal festival, cash dole *in lieu* of clothing items at the rate of ₹ 1,000 thereby covering 1,14,929 BPL families with at least two family members and at the rate of ₹ 500 covering 12,860 single member BPL card holders has been disbursed. A sum of ₹ 12.14 crore was utilized during 2021-22 for this purpose. For the benefits of the Child in Need of

Care and Protection (CNCP) and in the best interest of Children, this Government is extending various welfare measures. As such, grant-in-aid to a tune of ₹ 4.25 crore was released to the 28 Child Care Institutions for the maintenance of children.

81. In the wake of COVID-19, 11 COVID orphan and 378 semi orphan (lost of single parents) children were identified in the Union Territory of Puducherry and was provided with food, clothing, shelter and education for their rehabilitation. Further, the 11 COVID orphan children were registered in the portal of the "PM Care for Children" for the financial assistance of ₹ 10 lakh. In the meantime, ₹1.32 lakh has been released at ₹2,000 per month per child to the 11 children orphaned due to COVID-19 for the period from June 2021 to November 2021. Under the "After Care Assistance" scheme a sum of ₹5.44 lakh was released to the CCIs to take care of the 34 beneficiaries in the age group of 18-21 years at ₹2,000 per month.

ADI DRAVIDAR WELFARE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE WELFARE

82. Hon'ble Members are well aware that one of the crucial objectives of this Government is to pay more focused approach towards the integrated socio-economic and educational development of the underprivileged Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes in a co-ordinated and planned manner with the additional financial support of Government of India. As such, under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Subsidy scheme, an amount of ₹9 lakh was sanctioned as first instalment to 6 beneficiaries, ₹1.20 crore as second installment to 80 beneficiaries and ₹80 lakh as third installment to 80 beneficiaries. Also, under the Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi House Construction Subsidy scheme, an amount of ₹6 lakh was sanctioned as second installment to 4 beneficiaries and ₹7 lakh as third installment to 7 beneficiaries for construction of well-designed concrete house. For every SC/ST poor bride's marriage, financial assistance of ₹75,000 is granted in which 396 families were benefitted and an expenditure of ₹2.97 crore was incurred.

83. During the year 2021-22, 644 SC / ST women were benefitted under the scheme providing financial assistance to the pregnant and lactating SC / ST women for which an amount of ₹ 92.40 lakh was spent. To help the SC / ST families who are suffering from various prolonged diseases, this Government has provided financial assistance of ₹ 3,000 per month. During the year 2021-22, an amount of ₹ 5.59 crore is disbursed to 1,555 SC / ST beneficiaries for this purpose.

84. To eradicate the cruelty of untouchability in the society, an incentive of ₹ 2.50 lakh is awarded to inter caste married couples in the form of fixed deposit and 226 couples were benefitted for an amount of ₹ 5.65 crore. Financial assistance of ₹ 15,000 was paid to each poor SC / ST deceased 899 families to perform funeral ceremony for which an amount of ₹ 1.34 crore was disbursed. Financial assistance of ₹ 20,000 per SC family has been granted for construction of latrines. As such, ₹ 90,000 was released to 9 beneficiaries at the rate of ₹ 10,000 each as 2nd installment.

85. To carry out the basic and civic amenities (civil works) such as provision of road facilities, water supply, side drainage, community hall and waterborne latrine *etc.*, in Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes habitation areas of the Union Territory of Puducherry an amount of ₹ 19.80 crore has been allocated as grants-in-aid to PADCO and Yanam Municipality. An amount of ₹ 24.68 lakh has been granted as relief to 24 victims under SC / ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 and Amended Act, 2015 and Rules, 2016.

86. In the Union Territory of Puducherry, for Diwali 2021 an amount of ₹ 6.22 crore was disbursed to 1,24,412 beneficiaries and for Pongal 2022 an amount of ₹ 6.25 crore was disbursed to 1,24,940 beneficiaries as cash assistance @ ₹ 500 each *in lieu* of sarees and dhoties to all SC / ST people who attained the age of 18 years. In order to provide educational developments, training and self-employments including Free Education scheme, financial assistance for an amount ₹ 9.26 crore was disbursed to 3,816 SC / ST students.

87. I am sure that all the Hon'ble Members of this august House will agree that this Government is fully committed to provide education, health, clean drinking water, employment generation and ensure the socio-economic development of the people of Union Territory of Puducherry.

88. I am confident that all of you will extend your co-operation and valuable suggestions towards implementation of various schemes and I hope that Hon'ble Members of this august House will make use of this session for constructive debates.

89. Wish you all success in the ensuing deliberations during this session.

JAI HIND .....

NANDRI !

VAZHGA BHARATHAM !!

VALARGA PUDUCHERRY !!!

ஒவ்வொரு வீட்டிலும் தேசியக் கொடி

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13-8-2022 முதல் **15-8-2022** வரை

வடிவமைப்பு மற்றும் அச்சிட்டோர் : அரசினர் மத்திய அச்சகம், புதுச்சேரி - 605 009.