



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

Address by

Lt. General AJAY KUMAR SINGH

PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Rtd.)

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

to

THE PUDUCHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

11th March, 2015

Address by

Lt. General **AJAY KUMAR SINGH**, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Rtd.)

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

to

THE PUDUCHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*“Army, people, sound finance, a council of ministers,
allies and defensive fortifications, these six things if
a King possesses, he is a lion among the Kings”.*

—KURAL

***Hon’ble Speaker and distinguished Members
of this House,***

Vanakkam !

I am very happy indeed, to be here to express my sincere wishes and greetings to Hon'ble Members of this august House on the occasion of the opening of the first session of the Legislative Assembly for the year 2015. As Hon'ble Members are aware that the Central Government has conceived a new concept namely NITI Aayog, replacing the Planning Commission, which aims to involve the States in economic policy-making in India and will be providing strategic and technical advice to the Central and the State Governments

thereby promoting the spirit of co-operative federalism. I am glad to say that subsequent to the 1st meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog held at New Delhi on 8th February 2015 which was chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister, its composition has been amended to include the Chief Minister of Puducherry as a regular member.

2. At the outset, I would like to inform this august House that the State Planning Board, in its meeting held on 19th February 2015 has approved a Plan size of ₹ 2,800 crore for the Annual Plan 2015-16 which is 22.27% higher as compared to the current year's Revised Estimates of ₹ 2,290 crore. This is because of several reasons like higher internal resources, higher borrowings, additional central assistance to the long pending demands and better financial management.

3. As the Hon'ble Members are aware that due to Parliamentary elections, my Government could only take Vote on Account to take care

of the expenditure for the first six months of the current financial year. With the passage of regular budget in September 2014, the Government had a window of less than six months to execute all the schemes and complete the entire expenditure. And I am happy to inform the House that with the concerted and sincere efforts of all the officers and officials and with the periodical monitoring of Hon'ble Chief Minister and other Ministers, many developmental programmes have been implemented and the socio-economic status of the Union Territory of Puducherry has considerably improved. Among the economic indicators, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is expected to be ₹ 26,431 crore which will be 24% more than previous year's figure of ₹ 21,500 crore. The *per capita* income, which indicates the purchasing power of the people, is also expected to record an impressive figure of ₹ 1,75,000 which is 20% more than the previous year's figure of ₹ 1,52,000. With this positive note,

I now turn to some of the major programmes and achievements made by my Government under various sectors during the financial year 2014-15.

AGRICULTURE

4. Keeping in mind the welfare of farmers, my Government has disbursed investment subsidy to 20,347 farmers with an expenditure of ₹ 6.34 crore under the scheme, "Integrated Programme for Promotion of Agricultural Production and Technology". For promoting complete mechanization in the day to day agricultural operations and to overcome the problem of labour shortage, my Government has extended subsidy to the tune of ₹ 76 lakh to the farmers to purchase agricultural machineries and equipment. To facilitate the farmers for marketing their produce well in time, financial assistance to purchase 5 lorries to transport harvested vegetables from the villages has been provided to Puducherry Market Committee.

The efforts of agricultural sector of Puducherry have been recognised by the leading national magazine "India Today" and as a result, Puducherry received an award for the best among the small states in Agricultural sector for the year 2013-14. I am glad to inform the House that the Biological Control Lab functioning in Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Krishi Vigyan Kendra (PKKVK) has been certified as number one in India by the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

5. This sector has high potential in generating subsidiary income for the beneficiaries and production of protein rich food for the animals. To achieve this goal, my Government has accorded high priority to sustain the livestock health and productivity. In order to implement the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 in the Union Territory an Animal Welfare Board has been

constituted. In order to update knowledge and inculcate interest among farmers in livestock rearing, 17 Farmers meet and 17 Cattle and Poultry shows were conducted. For establishing convergence and synergy between the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the stakeholders for sustainable livestock development, a State Livestock Mission has been formulated to obtain assistance under the Central Scheme of National Livestock Mission. Under this Mission, Livestock insurance, Fodder Development and Poultry breeding infrastructure development have been taken up. In order to improve the egg production at the backyard, 1,000 BPL farmers were distributed with 5 numbers of layer pullets free of cost. As a result of the implementation of cattle feed supply programme, more than 47,600 metric tons of milk and 11.35 million eggs have been produced in the Union Territory in the current financial year. On this occasion, I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that in order to

give priority for veterinary education, grant-in-aid to an extent of ₹ 12.46 crore has been released to Puducherry Veterinary College Society. I am also glad to inform the members that this institution has received 'A' Grade from the National Assessment Accreditation Council (NAAC) and is first of its kind among the Veterinary Colleges in India.

CIVIL SUPPLIES

6. My Government is in the process of issuing Aadhaar integrated biometric based Smart Ration Cards to all family ration card holders of Puducherry for the distribution of commodities under the Public Distribution System through Fair Price Shops by introducing electronic devices and modernizing the procedural activities of the PDS. For the last more than one year, my Government has been supplying 10 kg. of rice every month to all the ration card holders of Puducherry and

Karaikal to address their food needs. This scheme is very popular among the people. Now, going one step ahead in this direction, my Government has decided to transfer cash of ₹ 300 per ration card holder per month through their bank accounts in Puducherry and Karaikal regions *in lieu of* rice. This option has several advantages over the current procedure like transparency, convenience to the consumers in terms of procuring their choice of quality food grains in time and as per their requirement.

COMMERCIAL TAXES

7. To establish transparency in services, my Government has been adopting several measures to facilitate business and trade in the Union Territory of Puducherry. In the year 2013-14, the revenue collection was ₹ 1,256.28 crore and we target to collect ₹ 1,320 crore in the year 2014-15. The tax base has been widened by registration

of works contract related dealers. I am happy to inform the members that my Government has not increased the VAT rate on the petroleum products despite intense pressure on revenue in the Union Territory and all the benefits accruing due to oil price reduction announced by the Central Government have been passed on to the consumers without any additional taxation. Despite this measure, tax buoyancy has been achieved in this Union Territory. Further, as a result of the steps taken by the Union Territory administration for rationalisation of VAT rates over the past two years, we plan to move gradually towards a stable medium term tax regime in the future.

8. The Central Government has announced implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) throughout India from the year 2016-17. To facilitate smooth launch of GST in Puducherry, my Government is taking all necessary preparatory steps.

CO-OPERATION

9. During the financial year 2014-15, financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 10.53 crore was released to the Puducherry Co-operative Sugar Mills for payment of dues to the cane growers. To strengthen the infrastructure of dairy plant and augmentation of processing capacity of the Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers Union, a project under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is being implemented at a cost of ₹ 3.34 crore and is expected to be completed by March – April 2015. In order to boost the procurement of milk to meet the required demand and to incentivize the small farmers, we have decided to increase the milk procurement price to ₹ 30 per litre which is ₹ 6 more than the previous procurement rate.

ELECTRICITY

10. Under Extension of supply to all categories of consumers and street lights scheme, 10 HT Industrial services, 54 LT Industrial services,

9,167 Domestic services, 1,053 Commercial services, 31 Agricultural services and 291 street lights were energized. Under the 'Conversion of Overhead to Under Ground Cable System' scheme, 800 metres of HT cables and 9 kms. of LT cables were laid and 105 LT Overhead services and 33 overhead street lights were converted into underground cable system.

11. Further, 22 distribution transformers were enhanced to higher capacities and 1 kilometre of HT lines and 16 kms. of LT lines were also strengthened. Under normal development schemes, 55 new distribution transformers of various capacities along with 6 kms. of HT lines and 30 kms. of LT lines, were energised.

12. The new sub-station at Venkata Nagar in the Puducherry town area with a capacity of 110 / 11 KV is functioning now. As a pilot project

on Smart Grid Programme at an approved cost of ₹ 46.11 crore, 87,075 electromechanical meters will be replaced by the Smart meters. 1,600 consumers covered under six Distribution Transformers have been provided with Smart Meters for sample study. Under the above programme, Distribution Transformer Monitoring Solution, Fault Passage Indicators and Net Metering have also been covered.

13. In order to bring down the transmission and distribution losses from the present level of 12.5% to 9.21%, my Government has sent the DPR to Ministry of Power to avail loan of ₹ 743.50 crore from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

EDUCATION

14. My Government is giving due importance to achieve 100% enrolment and retention of children in Government schools by taking various measures.

In order to achieve this goal, the Government is providing Uniforms, Text-books and Notebooks, free of cost to all students studying in LKG to XII Standard of all Government and Government-Aided Private Schools in all the four regions of Puducherry, irrespective of the annual parental income ceiling limit. About 1,28,000 students will be benefited under the Scheme. Midday Meals Scheme is being implemented for the benefit of the students studying in Pre-primary to XII Std. in Government / Government-Aided Schools to improve the attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of school students. About 1,04,000 students have benefited under this scheme. The menu of the Midday Meals Scheme has been revised to make it protein rich based on the recommendations of the Department of Food and Nutrition, Pondicherry University.

15. The scheme of provision of transport facilities at concessional rate of ₹ 1 per trip for all students of Government / Government-Aided / Private Schools and Colleges in the 'Students Special Buses' is continued to facilitate students to reach schools easily and back home throughout the academic year. 60 buses are being operated in Puducherry region and 11 buses in Karaikal region.

16. To achieve cent percent result and to improve the performance of the students in 10th Std. Public Examination, under the innovative programme of 'Sigarathai Nokki' a detailed question bank was prepared utilizing the expertise and experience of the teachers and distributed to the students studying in Government schools and appearing for 10th Public Examination free of cost and about 8,800 students have benefited from this exercise. About 2,000 teachers have been trained in innovative methods of teaching by SSA.

17. A Committee has been constituted to prepare a Perspective Plan for development of School Education. The CBSE curriculum is introduced in Ist Std. in all Government Schools and up to Vth Std. in English medium schools to ensure uniformity in the system of education. Further, it has been proposed to impart training to the teachers upto the year 2020. 240 Primary School Teachers were trained under Early Literacy Programme. Two camps, one in rural and another in the urban area were conducted to assess the extent of disability / impairment of the students studying in Government Schools. Based on the assessment of the experts, 85 students were provided with spectacles / hearing aids. Financial assistance was provided to nine students for performing eye surgery. All Children with Special Needs (CWSN) are provided with Escort / Transport allowance. In order to encourage sports and youth activities in Puducherry, renovation of

the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium has been taken up at a cost of ₹ 6 crore and so far ₹ 3.75 crore has been incurred. Cash award of ₹ 2 lakh has been awarded to 50 Government High / Higher Secondary Schools which produced 100% pass percentage in urban areas and 90% in rural areas in SSLC / HSC Public examination.

18. Four students and one teacher were selected to participate in Japan East Asia Network of Exchange of Students and Youth Programme and visited Japan. Construction of one Multi-Purpose Indoor Hall near Tagore Arts College Ground, Lawspet, Puducherry, has been undertaken at a cost of ₹ 6 crore and is under progress. Formation of 200 metre speed Roller Skating Rink opposite Tagore Arts College, Lawspet, Puducherry has been completed at a cost of ₹ 60 lakh. Action has been taken to develop sports infrastructure facilities in 50 Village Panchayats and

5 Blocks with the financial assistance of ₹ 1 lakh and ₹ 5 lakh respectively under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA). 77 additional classrooms were constructed under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and another 13 additional classrooms were constructed under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA). 50 Computers were distributed to 11 Government Schools under RMSA.

19. To subsidise the State's Consolidated Fund and for encouraging the availing of financial assistance towards infrastructure development in institutions from Government of India under the scheme, 'Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)', Puducherry State Higher Education Council has been setup and the funds received from the Central Government were released for infrastructure development of polytechnics and Pondicherry Engineering College. Under the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme, an amount

of ₹ 31.70 crore has been disbursed to students and Institutions concerned. The number of student beneficiaries during this financial year so far is 7,074 comprising (875 students pursuing medical and 6,199 students pursuing engineering courses) clearing the backlog of the previous years.

FISHERIES

20. To improve the livelihood of fishermen community, my Government is implementing various schemes. In order to undertake repair works during the lean season, 581 Mechanized boat operators were assisted with reactivation charges at ₹ 20,000 for Wooden Mechanized Boats and at ₹ 10,000 for FRP boats respectively, amounting to ₹ 99.30 lakh. Reimbursement of sales tax on HSD oil procured by the registered mechanized boat is made to a tune of ₹ 2.23 crore for 580 beneficiaries in respect of Puducherry and Karaikal regions.

Ban Relief assistance amounting to ₹ 7.57 crore was extended to 18,933 fishermen families at ₹ 4,000 each during the period of ban on fishing. 6,285 aged fishermen folk were granted with Old Age Pension to the tune of ₹ 5.49 crore at ₹ 1,150 per month. 456 meritorious fishermen students who secured 75% and above marks in 10th and 12th standards were awarded with cash prize amounting to ₹ 34.35 lakh. ₹ 56 lakh worth of Fishery requisites were distributed to fishermen at subsidized cost through fishermen co-operatives.

21. Grant-in-aid to a tune of ₹ 37.50 lakh each was extended to Puducherry Fishing Harbour Management Society and Pondicherry State Fishermen Co-operative Federation Ltd., Puducherry. An amount of ₹ 2.87 crore was released to Port Department, Puducherry for carrying out emergency dredging at the entrance of the river mouth / navigational channel of the Fishing Harbour, Puducherry.

To execute the dredging of river mouth at fishing harbour, Karaikal ₹ 1.78 crore has been earmarked and the work will be commenced shortly. Techno Economic feasibility study for construction of fishing harbour at T.R. Pattinam has been undertaken by Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF).

22. An input subsidy amounting to ₹ 7.50 lakh to 84 fresh water fish farmers at ₹ 5,000 per acre covering 150 acres for undertaking inland fish culture activities in respect of Puducherry region was released.

HEALTH

23. An amount of ₹ 2.81 crore was released to the Pondicherry Medical Relief Society for extending financial assistance to the BPL families for taking speciality treatment at higher medical institutions by enhancing the assistance from

₹ 1.50 lakh to ₹ 2 lakh. In order to handle trauma cases and to provide life saving treatment to the trauma patients, sophisticated diagnosis equipment -128 Slice CT Scanner had been procured for Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Post Graduate Institute, Puducherry. Digital radiography system for taking Chest X-Rays has been installed in the Chest Clinic, Puducherry. To ensure zero expenditure from confinement to delivery for pregnant mothers, to and fro free bus transport facility between their homes and the medical facility centre has been implemented. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that 103 students who passed from the first batch in Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Research Institute are undergoing internship training in the Medical College itself. At present, the total strength of students in the Medical College is about 600 and the faculties as required by Medical Council of India have been appointed.

24. The *per capita* health expenditure for the Union Territory of Puducherry excluding sanitation and water is ₹ 2,605. Puducherry stands No. 1 in life expectancy which is 72.4 years when compared to All India life expectancy of 65 years. The Union Territory of Puducherry has been able to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate to 17 against the national figure of 42. Since more than 99% of deliveries are conducted in the health institutions, Puducherry has been able to achieve the lowest Maternal Mortality Rate of 90 per 1 lakh live births against the national figure of less than 200. The percentage of Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) implantation under National Programme for Control of Blindness is 99.50% and 15,102 cataract surgeries were performed in the year 2013 - 14 against the target of 7,400. Primary Health Centre building at Karayamputhur has been renovated at a cost of ₹ 46.12 lakh.

25. Based on the Indian Public Health Standard Guidelines, the plinth area of Trauma Care Centre, Mahe was extended and the work is in progress.

26. To provide immediate medical care to the neuro patients, a new exclusive Intensive Care Unit (ICU) has been started in the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute, Puducherry.

27. For treating swine flu affected patients, isolated wards were created at Government Hospital for Chest Diseases with 6 beds.

INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

28. The policy of my Government is to encourage eco-friendly industries in this Union Territory. The New Industrial policy clearly spells out the various methods to be adopted and effective action to be taken to remove the existing barriers and to ensure hassle free investment

climate to boost investor's confidence to invest in this Union Territory. The proposed simplified, time-bound e-portal licensing mechanism would help the entrepreneurs to set up their industries within the stipulated time period. The policy is also expected to catalyze the business opportunities in manufacturing, specifically in the area of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in line with the flagship programme of Central Government namely, 'Make in India'. Under 'Make in India', as a boost to the manufacturing sector, the Government of Puducherry has taken effective steps towards achieving the objective. An Industrial Guidance Bureau (IGB) is already functioning as a single window mechanism, to facilitate the entrepreneurs in obtaining clearances from various Departments / Agencies in a time-bound manner for setting up of industrial establishment. As insisted by Government of India, to implement and enforce single window clearance institutional

mechanism for starting up of business, with all relevant officers (with authority to approve applications), of various departments, housed in a single office for providing approvals and clearances, my Government will establish the Institutional Mechanism Forum.

29. Eventhough there was some industrial slow down for a few years because of the general down turn in the economy, the growth continues. Puducherry has nearly 77 large and 8,863 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and with an investment of ₹ 2,858.41 crore. These industries are deemed to be the lifeline of Puducherry economy providing employment to over one lakh persons.

30. My Government has also taken action to avail a grant of ₹ 100 crore from Ministry of MSME, Government of India for implementing

a Credit Guarantee Scheme, which will enable the entrepreneurs of this Union Territory to avail collateral free credit facilities up to ₹ 1 crore under 'Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises'.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

31. I am proud to inform the Hon'ble Members that the State Data Centre functioning in this Union Territory has obtained ISO 27001 Certificate for Information Security and ISO 20000 Certificate for IT Service Management. Recently launched e-Project Management System, e-PMS will facilitate smooth follow-up of 25 various infrastructural projects being planned in Puducherry. Further under the e-Samiksha platform, an opportunity is available with us to co-ordinate with the respective ministries / departments of the Central Government on the important 21 issues.

32. Under Information Technology Finishing School scheme, 3,164 students from Government / Private colleges were trained free of cost and 411 students were placed in various companies. Under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is executing the laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in Puducherry linking all the 98 village panchayats and the work will be completed by the end of this month.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

33. My Government pays sincere attention on the welfare of media persons by extending enhanced monthly pension from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 6,000. A financial assistance of ₹ 15,000 for purchase of laptop / desktop computer to the media persons is being provided. Every year, a cash prize of ₹ 10,000 to one 'Journalist' and one 'Photo Journalist' selected as 'Best Journalist' and 'Best Photo Journalist' is being awarded on the occasion of National Press Day.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

34. In order to maintain litter free zone, hawkers along the Beach Road have been cleared and rehabilitated at a nearby area without affecting their livelihood. This step has made the entire road quite clean and will surely help in boosting tourism. The Government has also spent ₹ 27 crore to upkeep the cleanliness of towns / villages in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

35. Tender for collection and transportation of garbage in the urban Agglomeration of Puducherry has been floated on 19th February, 2015 and the new system is expected to be in place within 4 months.

36. DPR for incineration of solid waste is proposed to be brought as a part of Swachh Bharat Urban Mission.

37. A project for the modernization of existing Abattoir at Attupatti in Puducherry Municipality, which was established 80 years ago by French Government, has been approved at a cost of ₹ 5.1 crore.

38. In order to speed up the execution of various works under MLA–LAD Scheme by timely release of funds, we have created a Revolving Fund.

39. For the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission introduced by the Central Government, a State Level High Powered Committee has been constituted by the Local Administration Department in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

40. During the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) period, around 17,000 toilets are planned in the urban areas. Similarly, 50 community toilets and 50 public toilets are planned.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

41. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 28th August, 2014 in the Union Territory of Puducherry. More than 70,000 accounts have been opened in various banks under this scheme. So far, the banks have issued 45,822 Ru-Pay Cards to the account holders under this scheme. I am happy to announce that all the households in Puducherry are having at least one bank account in the family. Hon'ble Prime Minister has also appreciated the Union Territory administration for the tremendous achievement made under this programme.

42. As against 12.44 lakh population as per 2011 census, 11.68 lakh (93.87%) persons have been enrolled under Aadhaar upto February 2015 in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions. 100% Aadhaar seeding has been achieved in respect of MGNREGA, National Social Assistance

Programme, Merit-*cum*-Means scholarship for Minorities and Post Matric scholarship for SC students.

43. A shelf of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects for infrastructure development in respect of Information Technology, Tourism, Local Administration, Electricity, Port and Health costing over ₹ 10,000 crore has been prepared.

POLICE

44. To strengthen the Police force, vacancies of various cadres were filled by way of promotions and recruitments. In this regard, 3 Inspectors were promoted as Superintendents of Police, 19 Sub-Inspectors were promoted as Inspectors, 29 ASIs / Head Constables were promoted as Sub-Inspectors and 29 Head Constables were promoted as Assistant Sub-Inspectors. The benefit of ACP / MACP was given to 507 Police personnel and

939 Police personnel were given Special Grade Promotion as Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables. An assistance of ₹ 5.57 crore is being utilized for implementing the scheme *viz.*, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

45. Due to the proper measures taken by the police department, all kinds of crimes have been reduced to considerable extent.

46. Four coastal police stations are functioning in all the four regions of Union Territory of Puducherry and the construction of jetties at Puducherry and Karaikal are nearing completion. The recruitment rules of coastal police force were approved by my Government providing a provision for re-appointment of Navy and Coast Guard and ex-marine personnel.

47. The physical standards required for women for recruitment as Police Constable and Home Guards were suitably amended to ensure that the required 20% of force are filled by women. The recruitment for 100 woman constables, 211 IRBn constables and 450 home guards is under progress. A fully equipped Indoor Physical Training Centre and Gym building has been constructed for training police personnel.

PUBLIC WORKS

48. Under infrastructure development, my Government has achieved considerable progress. The Construction work of two major bridges at Thirukanji and Kaikalapet at a cost of ₹ 31.56 crore and ₹ 34.95 crore respectively is in progress. Construction of approach road / bridge for Road Over Bridge across 100 feet road at LC 43A commenced at a cost of ₹ 35.72 crore and the work is under progress. Construction of residential

quarters for Judicial Officers at Lawspet was completed at a cost of ₹ 3 crore. Development work at Nallamabal Lake as Tourist Destination in Karaikal was completed at a cost of ₹ 4.98 crore. Revitalization of Nalankulam at Thirunallar including improvements and electrification to Nalankulam and construction of toilet block were taken up and completed at a total cost of ₹ 5.87 crore in November 2014.

49. The rehabilitation of water supply distribution grid within town Boulevard was taken up in three phases at a total cost of ₹ 35.90 crore and completed. New water supply scheme for Thattanchavady, Manavelly, G.N. Palayam, Odiyampet and surrounding areas in Villianur commune has been taken up at a cost of ₹ 18 crore. Over Head Tanks at Kalapet, Odaiveli, Manavelly and T.N. Palayam have been constructed at a cost of ₹ 6 crore. An OHT for a capacity of 20 lakh litres at Thanthai Periyar Nagar, Ellaipillaichavady was constructed and commissioned at a cost of ₹ 18.62 crore.

50. The Comprehensive underground sewerage project was taken up at a cost of ₹ 282.17 crore. The utility and service components of the scheme have been completed in all respects. With the establishment of three 17.5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plants at Lawspet, Dubrayapet and Kanaganeri, the underground sewerage scheme will be commissioned by the end of this year 2015-16.

REVENUE

51. Under Rajiv Gandhi Social Security Scheme, so far 1,026 beneficiaries have been granted financial assistance of ₹ 3.47 crore in 2014-15. Under National Land Records Modernisation Programme (NLRMP) – ‘e - Dharti’, computerisation of land records was completed. The computerisation of field maps was also completed. Under the Housing Scheme, 77 free house sites have been distributed during the financial year 2014-15.

52. Important works like strengthening of old bridges and culverts, converting the over head high tension and low tension electrical lines to Under Ground Cable, improving the Puducherry fishing harbour, constructing fishing work shelters, construction of markets, etc. are being undertaken by the Project Implementation Agency (PIA) under the Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project funded by the World Bank. Of the total 19 works, 6 have been tendered and tender is being called for in respect of other works for ₹ 244.88 crore.

53. Suitable places for setting up of Regional Emergency Operational Centres (REOC) in Mahe and Yanam have been identified. Computers and other equipments for the EOCs are being procured at the cost of ₹ 13.68 lakh.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

54. I am happy to announce that the Union Territory of Puducherry stands next to Kerala with enrolment of women as high as 87% in the MGNREGA. During the year 2014-15, ₹ 6.25 crore was spent by generating 3.75 lakh mandays. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), 282 new Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 6 Habitation Level Federation (HLF) have been formed.

55. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), 45,403 households were identified without toilets and the same are uploaded in the Management Information System and 10,000 Individual Household latrines (IHHLs) per year is targeted to cover 100% within a period of 5 years.

56. Under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha have adopted Sellipet and Karayamputhur respectively.

SOCIAL WELFARE

57. Besides various financial assistance schemes extended to economically weaker sections of the society, my Government also assisted 20,952 Differently-Abled Persons through payments of monthly financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 20.70 crore. Grants-in-aid to the tune of ₹ 4.06 crore has been released to 34 NGOs running Homes for 1,750 children / old aged / destitute women. Free Bicycles and Rain coats were distributed to 29,584 students of Government and Government aided schools who have studied 9th standard in the academic years 2012-13 and 2013-14, incurring expenditure of ₹ 9.87 crore. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that under Disability Pension Scheme, Government of India has been releasing ₹ 300 only per month per person for 1,259 beneficiaries, whereas my Government is disbursing ₹ 1,100 per month for the beneficiaries with

40% to 65% disability, ₹ 1,400 per month with 66% to 85% disability and ₹ 1,750 per month with 86% to 100% disability totalling to 20,952 beneficiaries. The additional expenditure on this account is being met out under the Union Territory's Consolidated Fund.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

58. Besides various other welfare measures being implemented for the welfare of women and children to an extent of ₹ 7.83 crore, my Government is disbursing an amount of ₹ 1,100 per month as Old Age, Widow and Destitute pension to 1,23,147 beneficiaries. A sum of ₹ 2,000 each was issued to the next of kin as assistance to perform the funeral rites of 1,820 deceased pensioners. 25,245 children and 8,963 mothers are benefited through the 855 Anganwadi Centres of this department. Under National Old Age Pension /

Widow Pension Scheme, though the Centre has been releasing ₹ 200 only per month per person for 27,498 beneficiaries, my Government is disbursing ₹ 1,100 per month per person for 1,14,588 beneficiaries and the additional expenditure is being met out from the Union Territory's Consolidated Fund. This shows the commitment of my Government towards its people by giving them an opportunity to lead a dignified life.

ADI-DRAVIDAR WELFARE

59. To uplift the standard of living of the SC / OEBC poor, my Government has granted subsidy to 2,631 beneficiaries as against the target of 2,000 to construct their own house under the "Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Housing Construction Scheme". Under the scheme of distribution of free clothing items, 2,50,267 SC people were benefited. In order to improve the health and nutritional status of the women community as contemplated in the

National agenda, my Government is providing ₹ 6,000 as financial assistance to pregnant and lactating women per child for two children in a family. A total of 1,791 women have been benefited under this scheme. Besides, various scholarship / stipend schemes to the tune of ₹ 20.49 crore were disbursed to SC students, in order to compensate the loss of income suffered by the parents in the event of sending their daughter to school, opportunity cost at ₹ 3,000 per annum is given to the parents of SC girl students studying from VIth to XIIth std. and 8,000 parents were benefited. The financial assistance given to the persons belonging to SC community who are suffering from prolonged illness was enhanced from ₹ 500 to ₹ 2,000 per month. The financial assistance given to pregnant and lactating SC women was enhanced from ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 12,000. Further, the financial assistance given to the funeral rites of SC people was enhanced

from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 10,000. The financial assistance given to MBBS and Engineering students has been increased to ₹ 3.25 lakh and ₹ 35,000 respectively from ₹ 2.25 lakh and ₹ 25,000, 591 SC students will be benefited under this scheme in 2014-15. With a view to encourage SC girl students to study, retention scholarship is awarded to 4,500 students studying from Ist to Vth Std. at ₹ 1,000 per year.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

60. My Government is continuously implementing the programme of financial assistance to houseless poor under the scheme, "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Centenary Housing Scheme for the Houseless Poor". In 2014-15, a total of 3,569 houseless poor were benefited at an expenditure of ₹ 13.83 crore. Under Urban Development Sector, various infrastructure development projects to the tune of ₹ 66.69 crore have been executed. A scheme of

‘Augmentation of Water Supply Project for Yanam’ has been launched in order to avoid recurring expenditure for procuring drinking water to Yanam region during summer closure period (April to June) from private water tankers of Andhra Pradesh. Under this scheme, it is proposed to provide drinking water supply directly from the river Godawari which is having Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage of Dowlaiswaram by laying 350 mm DI pipe to a length of about 65 kms. The project has been completed at a cost of ₹ 46 crore and is ready for commissioning. Under the Scheme, ‘Construction of 1,136 dwelling units at Lambert Saravanan Nagar, Reddiarpalayam, Puducherry’ work was started for 896 dwelling units out of which 192 dwelling units have been completed. The remaining 704 dwelling units are at various stages. Infrastructure works of Community Hall, Shops and Library have been

completed. Under the Scheme for Construction of 432 dwelling units at Karaikovilpathu, Karaikal, 288 dwelling units were completed and the remaining 144 dwelling units are under progress. Under Rajiv Awas Yojana, for preparation of the Slum-Free City Plan of Action for Puducherry urban areas, Puducherry Slum Clearance Board has completed the survey and the preparation of Slum Free City Plan has been awarded to the consultant and the Plan will be completed before May 2015 and will be submitted to Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for approval.

61. The Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) for Puducherry Planning Area (293.77 sq.kms.) has been envisaged at a cost of ₹ 2.18 crore. Digitisation of base maps for Karaikal CDP is in progress and the Master Plan of both the regions will be completed within a year.

TOURISM

62. By an increased tourist arrival to Puducherry during the last year to the tune of 11%, it is proved that tourism has gained significant dimension and is emerging as the largest service industry for generating employment and spurring economic growth. The potential for tourism is quite healthy in the Union Territory of Puducherry and my Government is striving hard to undertake all steps to flourish tourism development oriented schemes. To facilitate tourists / pilgrims, toilet block and change room around Nalankulam at Thirunallar, under Temple Town Development Project was completed at a cost of ₹ 3.50 crore. Development of Northern Ring Road at Thirunallar at a cost of ₹ 9.34 crore and development of Nallambal lake as tourist destination at a cost of ₹ 4.98 crore were completed under the project. Around 40 lakh pilgrims have visited Karaikal on the occasion of the world famous Sani Peyarchi. Development of

Heritage Precinct at Mahe was completed at a cost of ₹ 1.83 crore. Destination marketing across India was started and financial assistance was extended to various NGOs / Educational Institutions for cultural programmes and events. To promote Puducherry as a preferred Tourist destination, the Tourism Department participated in domestic Tourism / Trade Fairs held across a slew of destinations such as Kolkata, Chennai, Bangaluru, Mumbai, Kochin, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Madurai and Nagpur. My Government will ensure that Puducherry will remain tourist friendly destination in the country for ever.

TRANSPORT

63. During the year 2014-15, to increase revenue collections and to issue Temporary Permits, additional posts were setup at Thirukkanur in Puducherry region and at Nandalar and Ambagarathur in Karaikal Region from which a

revenue of ₹ 55.33 lakh has been collected. During this year, 38,696 vehicles were registered and 13,572 driving licences were issued. PRTC is operating 10 AC buses.

64. My Government has accorded sanction for preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) in July 2014 to complete the exercise within a period of 12 months. Transport Complex and Driving Testing Yard at Karaikal is under progress.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

65. With the objective to keep strict vigilance against potentially polluting units, the industries are directed to install online monitoring systems with the connection to the Regulatory Authorities including Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) so as to keep a check on the quality and quantity of Pollutant discharge emission from the industries round-the-clock.

66. For effective conservation and development of Coastal resources and utilising the natural resources of Puducherry for tourism purpose without damaging / polluting the environment, an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Union Territory is approved at a total cost of ₹ 400 crore.

67. Puducherry being the coastal city, is likely to suffer from more intense sea level rising resulting in erosion of coastline. A State Action Plan on Climate Change has been prepared for 7 Missions. The total cost of project is ₹ 463 crore and is proposed to be funded by the World Bank.

68. My Government is fully concentrating to improve socio-economic development of the society to eradicate poverty and is fully conscious in allocation of resources proportionately to all the

regions so as to avoid regional imbalances. I am sure all the Members will extend the support and contribute their valuable suggestions for the implementation of various developmental oriented welfare schemes.

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

NANDRI !

JAI HIND !