



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

# BUDGET SPEECH

## 2020 - 2021

Thiru **V. NARAYANASAMY**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister



20<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

**BUDGET SPEECH**

**2020 – 21**

ஆகாறு அளவிட்டி தாயினுங் கேடில்லை  
போகாறு அகலாக் கடை. - குறள்

It is not a misfortune for a State if its  
revenues are limited provided the expenditure  
is kept within bound. - Kural

***Hon'ble Speaker Sir,***

*Vanakkam !*

I rise to present the Budget of my Government for the year 2020-21 in this august House. I consider this as a great privilege as this is the fifth successive budget presented by me in this august House. Also this budget assumes greater significance in view of its being the last budget of the present Government with the general elections to the Legislative Assembly falling due in 2021.

2. Hon'ble Members will be supplied copies of Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2020-21.

**3.** At the outset, I wish to place on record the valuable guidance and blessings of the President of All India Congress Smt. Sonia Gandhi, and the enthusiasm and constant guidance of our beloved young leader Shri. Rahul Gandhi to my Government all through these years. I would also like to sincerely acknowledge the blessings of Muthamizh Vithagar Dr. Kalaignar and the active support of Thiru M.K. Stalin, President of DMK Party and other political alliance leaders.

**4.** I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to all the Members for your kind co-operation, valuable suggestions and active support in times of need during all these four years which obviously have been a source of tremendous strength to my Government and to me in particular.

**5.** The Union Territory of Puducherry like the rest of the country has been undergoing an unprecedented health crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the spread of the virus has been contained to a greater extent by the untiring effort of the Government machinery. Puducherry Union Territory remains one among the States conducting maximum number of tests for Corona virus. I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the medical personnel, District administration, Police, Employees of Civil Supplies Department, PWD, Electricity Department, Local Administration Department, Anganwadi workers, Teachers, Sanitary workers, and all those who are actively engaged in the fight against the deadly virus. I assure the Hon'ble Members of this house that my Government will employ all means to contain the spread of the virus and ensure the safety of the people of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

**6.** In order to mitigate the suffering of poor families due to the nationwide lockdown enforced to contain Corona virus, cash assistance of ₹ 2,000 to all ration card holders were given for which

₹ 68.26 crore was spent. In addition to this, cash assistance of ₹ 2,000 was given to all construction workers benefiting 35,000 workers involving an expenditure of ₹ 8 crore. Similarly, cash assistance of ₹ 1,000 to the members of unorganized workers welfare board were also paid. This has benefitted 25,000 families of unorganized workers. ₹ 2.50 crore has been spent on this score. Further, free rice @ 5 Kg. per person per month for all BPL families was distributed in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Many immediate welfare measures including grant of subsidy @ ₹ 5,000 for all farmers were taken by my Government. My Government will leave no stone unturned to make the Union Territory of Puducherry a COVID-19 free place at the earliest with the co-operation of the people of this Union Territory.

**7.** As regards the financial situation of this Union Territory, the Union Territory is facing resource constraints due to various factors like complete lockdown, closure of business establishments, job loss, etc. on account

of the health crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to mention here some of the major fiscal issues, though the Hon'ble Members are already aware of them:

- (i) Despite repeated requests to the Government of India for inclusion of the Union Territory of Puducherry under the ambit of the XV Central Finance Commission, the Government of India has not agreed to the same so far. A study made by the Madras School of Economics which is a reputed Post-Graduate Teaching and Research Institute at Chennai has revealed that if the Union Territory of Puducherry is included under the ambit of XV Finance Commission, the Union Territory Government would be able to get around ₹ 2,800 crore Central assistance per year while the present central assistance of ₹ 1,700 crore only. The study report has

been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance for consideration.

- (ii) The implementation of GST with effect from 1-7-2017 in the Union Territory of Puducherry, has taken away the revenue autonomy of the Union Territory. The sudden shift from the origin based to destination based principle in the GST regime adversely impacts the producing States and Union Territories like Puducherry. In the pre-GST regime, the Central Sales Tax (CST) was collected by the producing States/Union Territories on inter-state transactions involving goods. However, Under GST, the IGST levied on interstate transactions is transferred to the State of consumption. Further, the service sectors contribution is relatively lesser in State GDP in Puducherry, and GST revenues from this sector have not been sufficient to compensate for the CST revenue loss.



- (iii) The legacy loans to the tune of ₹ 2,177 crore availed prior to the opening of separate Public Account of Puducherry in 2007 has been a major debt burden. The Government of India, notwithstanding repeated requests from my Government, have refused to waive it.
  
- (iv) Funding pattern of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in the Union Territory of Puducherry must be in the ratio of 90:10 (90% Central share and 10% State share) instead of 60:40 ratio as is allowed to other Union Territories so that the State share burden would be less. My Government has been demanding to consider this plea but the Government of India is yet to take a decision.

**8.** However, my Government continues to press the just demands at various forums on several occasion and I earnestly hope that the Government

of India would favourably consider our demands so as to ensure financial stability of the Union Territory.

**9** Coming to the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-21, the total budget outlay as approved by the Government of India for the year 2020-21 is ₹ 9,000 crore. The Union Territory's own resources for the current year is estimated as ₹ 5,267 crore (59%) and the Central assistance from Government of India including Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) will be ₹ 2,023 (22%). The remaining ₹ 1,710 crore (19%) are proposed to be met from Open Market Borrowings and loans from Central Financial Institutions.

**10.** Hon'ble Members are aware that a major portion of our financial resources goes to meeting the committed expenditure such as salaries, pension, repayment of loan and interest payments. Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 9,000 crore for the year 2020-21, ₹ 1,966 crore is allocated for salaries (21.84%), ₹ 1,177 crore for pensions (13.07%) and ₹ 1,625 crore for debt servicing (18.06%) *i.e.* repayment of loan and payment of interest, and ₹ 1,525 crore

for power purchase (16.94%). Other major expenditure of the Government includes Old Age Pension and other welfare schemes to the tune of ₹ 896 crore (9.96%), Grant-in-aid to society-run higher educational institutions, Public Sector Undertakings, local bodies, Co-operative Institutions and others to the extent of ₹ 864 crore (9.60%)

**11.** I wish to share with the Hon'ble Members that the Union Territory of Puducherry is required to repay ₹ 600 crore of Open Market Borrowing in 2020-21 which was availed in the year 2010-11. This will obviously be a huge financial burden for us. However, the Government will discharge this debt obligation as per repayment schedule as was done in the previous years.

**12.** The expenditure incurred during the year 2019-20 was ₹ 7,927 crore which is 93% of the Revised Estimate 2019-20. The GST compensation to the tune of ₹ 360 crore was not released by

Government of India in time which was the main cause for this marginal reduction in expenditure.

**13.** I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that while preparing the Budget for the year 2020-21, I have carefully considered all the relevant factors, and valuable suggestions received from various quarters. With the revenue expenditure of the Union Territory going up substantially over the years, the available resources are grossly inadequate to meet the growing demand for capital nature of works. At the same time the fiscal parameters governing public finance need to be maintained within the prescribed levels. I have sincerely attempted to strike a balance between the essential Government spending and availability of resources with sustainable debt burden in the Budget Estimate for 2020-21.

**14.** With a view to improving the livelihood of rural youth, labourer and women and ensuring a better income for them, my Government has proposed various steps in this direction. I, my Cabinet colleagues

and, MLAs have held elaborate discussions with the officers of Nationalized Banks, Lead Bank – Indian Bank and NABARD regarding grant of bank loan to labourers, students, weaker sections of people etc. and taken good decisions. I am happy to inform that in the current financial year 2020-21, bank loan to the extent of ₹ 1,703.21 crore will be extended for irrigation, land development, purchase of agricultural implements, horticulture, social forestry, diary and poultry development, goat rearing, fish culture, construction of storage facilities for storing food grains, food processing, grant of loans to farmers, etc. Further, a sum of ₹ 836.08 crore will be provided as bank loan for promotion of Medium, Small and Micro industries (MSME). Similarly, ₹ 40 crore for export promotion, ₹ 86.75 crore for educational loan, ₹ 217.48 crore for construction of dwelling units, ₹ 18.34 crore for development of Renewable Energy, ₹ 150 crore for development of basic infrastructure and, ₹ 230 crore for other

expenditure totalling to ₹ 3,281.86 crore will be provided as loan through banks in the current financial year.

**15.** The Hon'ble Members are well aware that this budget being the fifth one presented by my Government in this august House is presented under difficult circumstances where the whole world is fighting the Corona virus. In order to improve the livelihood and standard of living of farmers, schedule caste people, fishermen, business community, backward class and minorities people, youth, women, and the downtrodden of the Union Territory of Puducherry, new schemes like "Nammazhvar Agriculture Rejuvenation Mission", "Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Animal Husbandry Rejuvenation Mission", "Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi Milk Production Development scheme", "Rajiv Gandhi improved Breakfast and Nutrition scheme", "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Student Welfare Fund scheme", "Annai Indra Gandhi Medical Insurance scheme" for all, "Thanthai Periyar Rural Women Renaissance scheme",

“Sinthanai Sirpi Singaravelar Fishermen Rejuvenation scheme”, “Annal Dr. Ambedkar Adi Dravidar Scheduled Tribes Livelihood Improvement scheme”, “Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi Educational City scheme” are introduced in the budget 2020-21. Further, welfare schemes like Free drinking water for all BPL families, electricity subsidy to all BPL families using below 100 units of power per month also form part of this budget. With this introduction, I shall present the department wise presentation for the year 2020-21.

## **AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE**

**16.** According to Thiruvalluvar the great Tamil poet of yore, if the farmers’ hands are slackened, even the ascetic state will fail.

**17.** My Government has taken several efforts to rejuvenate agriculture profession and encourage farmers and accordingly implemented various welfare schemes last year. Paddy growers were given back-ended

subsidy for a total amount of ₹ 11.16 crore last year. I am glad to state that the direct subsidy of a maximum of ₹ 25,000 per hectare being given to paddy growers will continue. This kind of benefit to farmers is not available in any State in our country.

**18.** The farmers of Karaikal region has been largely benefited through the Regulated Market Committee by earning ₹ 1,000 more per quintal in selling price for cotton while compared to the previous year. The Regulated Market Committee situated at Thattanchavady in Puducherry region is the first e-market place for marketing various agricultural produces in South India. Under this scheme, farmers have got good price for their produces. Farmers have welcomed the move by my Government to procure paddy through Food Corporation of India (FCI). Action is being taken to distribute an amount of ₹ 7.00 crore to farmers of Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam region as crop insurance for the loss suffered by them during last year.



**19.** I am happy to say that the various farmers' welfare measures taken by my Government have been a great source of help to farmers in continuing their profession in the present difficult situation on account of COVID-19 crisis.

**20.** Also, I am glad to inform that my Government has proposed to introduce a new scheme *viz.*, "Nammazhvar Agricultural Rejuvenation Mission" expanding the existing farmer oriented welfare schemes including the direct subsidy scheme, by providing increased subsidy to farmers. The essential components of the scheme are as follows :

- (i) Subsidy for cultivation in Sornavari and Samba @ ₹ 5,000 per acre and ₹ 10,000 per acre respectively will continue to be provided. Further, for farmers who cultivate paddy during Navarai season instead of Sornavari season, cultivation subsidy @ ₹ 5,000 per acre will be given. A sum of ₹ 24 crore will be spent for this purpose.

- (ii) Similarly, the existing subsidy being provided for meeting the cultivation expenses @ ₹ 10,000 per acre to the farmers growing sugarcane and cotton will continue to be provided. A sum of ₹ 10 crore will be spent for this purpose.
- (iii) The farmers growing vegetables, banana and other fruits will be given subsidy of ₹ 5,000 per acre in addition to the backend subsidy being provided by the Government of India under Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the total subsidy not exceeding ₹ 10,000 per acre. An amount of ₹ 15 lakh will be spent for this purpose.
- (iv) The subsidy for groundnut cultivation will be enhanced from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 5,000 per acre. An amount of ₹ 85 lakh will be spent for this purpose.

- (v) The subsidy for sesame cultivation will be enhanced from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 3,000 per acre for which an amount of ₹ 25 lakh will be spent.
- (vi) The existing subsidy of ₹ 3,000 per acre for coconut cultivation will continue to be provided for which an amount of ₹ 50 lakh will be spent.
- (vii) The existing subsidy of ₹ 8,000 for fodder crops will continue to be paid. An amount of ₹ 50 lakh will be provided for this purpose.
- (viii) In order to increase the production of millets and encourage millet cultivation, a new scheme *viz.*, “Millet Mission” will be implemented this year. The existing subsidy of ₹ 5,000 per acre for millet cultivation and ₹ 2,000 per acre for pulses will be continued. An amount of ₹ 2.45 crore will be spent for this purpose.

- (ix) In order to encourage the farmers cultivating Tapioca to employ improved technologies, subsidy of ₹ 5,000 per acre will be provided. A total amount of ₹ 25 lakh will be spent for this purpose.
- (x) Action will be taken to pay the farmers' contribution under the agricultural crop insurance scheme, by the Government itself, and for grant of subsidy.
- (xi) A revolving fund ₹ 3 crore will be created to grant loan to farmers against the security of their paddy so as to enable them to store their paddy in the Regulated Market Committee storage facilities at Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam and sell the produce later when the rates are high in the market.
- (xii) Due to insufficient flow of Cauvery water and irrigation facilities, Prosopis trees widely grown in the agricultural lands in Karaikal region need to be removed so as to bring

the lands back for cultivation. An amount of ₹ 10,000 per hectare (maximum of two hectare per farmer) will be granted as subsidy. In the event of a farmer continuously cultivating for three years under this scheme, the subsidy will be given as back ended subsidy.

- (xiii) The ground water being drawn through Government tube wells are utilized by farmers through canals. As large quantity of groundwater is getting wasted in this regard. It is therefore proposed to implement “Underground pipeline connection Scheme” by giving pipeline connectivity to the respective agricultural lands in Karaikal region so as to avoid wastage of groundwater.
- (xiv) Various horticulture development schemes to the extent of ₹ 3 crore will be implemented this year with the support of Central Government.

- (xv) Under the scheme for Agricultural Mechanization, financial assistance of ₹ 2 crore for general farmers and ₹ 1 crore for SC farmers has been proposed in the budget for distribution of Tractor and other agricultural implements at subsidized cost. Further, the Government of India has been approached for financial assistance of ₹ 5 crore for expansion of this scheme.
- (xvi) My Government has proposed to implement a scheme to provide financial assistance in the form of subsidy for encouraging processing and value addition of pulses, millets and sugarcane by willing farmers, farmer groups or registered Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) @ ₹ 10 lakh or 35% of the total cost, whichever is lower, as one time support.
- (xvii) In order to support registered FPOs investing in value addition facilities to undertake direct branding and marketing of agriculture

produces, it is proposed to extend subsidy to registered FPOs @ ₹ 5 lakh per FPO, as one time support.

- (xviii) It is proposed to launch a Mission Mode Project for intensive cultivation of vegetables to meet the total demand of the people of Puducherry by encouraging cultivation of vegetables on roof tops and backyards.
- (xix) Skill development training for handling and maintenance of agricultural implements to 1,000 farmers and agricultural labourers will be imparted this year by the Agricultural Engineering Workshop.
- (xx) Subsidy of ₹ 1.20 crore has been proposed to be given for construction of tube wells, fixing of submersible motor pumps, providing of drip irrigation facilities under the “Intergrated Ground water Development and Protection Scheme”.

(xxi) Subsidy @ ₹ 1 lakh per 0.25 acre for establishing agricultural ponds (pannai kuttaikal) will continue to be provided in order to promote water resources.

I am happy to inform that necessary funds have been allocated for the above schemes covered under the “Nammazhvar Agricultural Rejuvenation Mission”. This new scheme will be implemented giving due importance for organic farming.

**21.** My Government has proposed to increase the coverage of the Centrally Sponsored “Kisan Credit Card” scheme and provide credit cards to 2,500 farmers this year. The farmers will thus be able to get bank loan upto a maximum of ₹ 3 lakh @ 7% interest for meeting their expenses on seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, wages to labourers etc. The farmers who promptly repay the loan within the stipulated period will get 3% interest subvention. The quantum of loan recommended for different crops to be availed through co-operative and other banks in the current financial year is as follows:



Sl. No.	Name of the crop	Quantum of loan recommended per acre
(1)	(2)	(3)

**I. Puducherry Region-**

1.	Paddy	₹ 27,000
2.	Ragi	₹ 6,000
3.	Rye	₹ 6,000
4.	Sugarcane	₹ 52,000
5.	Banana	₹ 42,000
6.	Tissue Culture Banana	₹ 52,000
7.	Tapioca	₹ 22,000
8.	Groundnut	₹ 25,000
9.	Cotton (High yield variety)	₹ 22,000
10.	Chilly	₹ 15,000
11.	Winter Vegetables	₹ 25,000
12.	Onion	₹ 14,000
13.	Vegetables	₹ 20,000
14.	High quality Vegetables	₹ 25,000

(1)	(2)	(3)
15.	Pulses	₹ 10,000
16.	Coconut (care)	₹ 12,000
17.	Sesame	₹ 7,400
18.	Chrysanthemum	₹ 10,000

## II. Karaikal Region-

1.	Paddy	₹ 27,000
2.	Banana	₹ 42,000
3.	Pulses	₹ 10,000
4.	Groundnut	₹ 20,000
5.	Chilly	₹ 12,000
6.	Cotton (High yield variety)	₹ 24,000
7.	Sesame	₹ 7,500
8.	Vegetables	₹ 20,000
9.	High quality Vegetables	₹ 25,000

**22.** Action will be taken to provide loan through banks to the extent of ₹ 306 crore for agricultural mechanization, dairy development, animal husbandry, food processing, fish culture and poultry development.

Agricultural crops loan to the extent of ₹ 1,397 crore will also be provided through banks, and the total bank loan will be ₹ 1,703 crore.

**23.** Action will be taken to get ₹ 2 crore from the Central Government this year for development of water resources and building rain-water harvesting infrastructure.

**24.** My Government has been taking steps to expand organic farming in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme Paramparagat Krish Vikas Yojana (PKVY) will be implemented this year in 28 identified clusters under which agricultural produces will be cultivated through organic farming at a cost of ₹ 28.55 lakh.

**25.** In order to improve the infrastructure facilities for National Agricultural Market (eNAM) at Thattanchavady and Karaikal Regulated Market Committees, a sum of ₹ 30 lakh each will be sought for from Government of India.

**26.** Further, it is proposed to extend agricultural services by facilitating planting of fruit seedlings in the back yards of homes simply through a telephone request from the public. Shade net structures will be set up on the roof tops at 75% subsidy. Action will be taken for cultivation of vegetables in the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Krish Vigyan Kendra (PKKV) for supply to the Mid-day Meals Scheme being implemented by the Department of School Education so as to solve the practical difficulties in procurement of vegetables from the open market in bulk.

**27.** The sugarcane farmers of Puducherry region are affected due to non-functioning of the private and Co-operative Sugar Mills in Puducherry. Action will be taken to provide all necessary support to the farmers for production of Jaggery and other value added products from sugarcane cultivated in their fields to overcome their current difficult situation. As a first step in this direction, the farmers would be

exempted from obtaining Government permission / License / NOC for production of Jaggery from the sugarcane cultivated by them.

**28.** It has been proposed to review the beneficiaries list of Agricultural Labourers Welfare Board and grant various welfare benefits to them this year.

**29.** It has been proposed to introduce a new Ph.D. course in Agricultural Economy with the approval of Pondicherry University in this academic year in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute (PAJANCOA), Karaikal. 60 additional seats in B.Sc. (Agriculture) and 40 additional seats in B.Sc. (Horticulture) will be created in the next academic year. Similarly, 70 additional seats will be created in M.Sc. (Agriculture) and M.Sc. (Horticulture). Diploma and Certificate courses in Agriculture and Horticulture will be started.

**30.** A new Agricultural Sciences University will be established in the academic year 2021-22 and the draft legislation in this regard is under process.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute (PAJANCOA), Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) will function under the control of the above proposed new University. This will pave way for getting financial assistance from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). In addition, grants can be obtained from ICAR and other central organisations for regional oriented research programmes on animal and fishery sciences. This will also help in creating additional seats in Under Graduate and Post Graduate courses in agricultural sciences and ultimately becoming an autonomous institution. The financial position will also improve and opportunities for advanced learning and research will arise.

**31.** A Memorandum of Undertaking has been signed with the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for joint research and development in agriculture. Accordingly, a comprehensive action plan for implementation covering a period of

three years at a cost of ₹ 5 crore has been prepared. Action is being taken to get the required funds from the Government of India. Under this scheme, education centres will be established in the selected villages at Puducherry and Karaikal regions for educating farmers on land and water resources management so as to ensure sustained agricultural production targets.

**32.** In the special session of the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry held in February 2020, a resolution was passed to declare the agricultural lands in the delta regions of Cauvery river in Karaikal District and Thenpennaiyar river in the Bahour Commune of Puducherry District in the Union Territory of Puducherry as Protected Agricultural Zone. In continuation to this, necessary action is being taken to pass the 'Puducherry Protected Agricultural Zone Development Bill 2020' in the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry shortly. Implementation of this Act will promote the agriculture profession and agro-based Industries at Karaikal and Bahour regions.

**33.** It is proposed to avail loan under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD to the tune of ₹ 7 crore for infrastructure facilities to the Regulated Market Yards at Thattanchavady and Karayamputhur and, ₹ 2 crore for improvements of infrastructure facilities at Uzhavar Sandhai at Lawspet, Arumbarthapuram and Ariyankuppam. Further, action will be taken for constructing Thrashing Floors and Storage Godowns in all the villages including Embalam where Paddy is cultivated.

**34.** My Government will take necessary action for establishment of a “Technical Incubation Centre” in Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Krishi Vigyan Kendra (PKKVK), Puducherry equipped with technical apparatus and implements for processing millets, vegetables, fruits and for value addition.

**35.** Action will be taken to avail subsidy upto ₹ 18 lakh from the Government of India for establishment of Farmer Producers Organization (FPO) groups consisting of 300 members. Action will also be taken to collect matching grant of ₹ 2,000 per



member so as to collect a total amount of ₹ 15 lakh. Bank loan to the extent of ₹ 150 lakh will be arranged to be provided to the FPO groups.

**36.** Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for micro food processing units, seed money of ₹ 40,000 per group for Self Help Groups (SHG) will be arranged. Further, repayment linked subsidy to the extent of 35% not exceeding ₹ 10 lakh will be arranged for Food Processing Industries. Financial assistance of ₹ 50,000 to FPOs and SHGs will be provided for development of infrastructure. All these schemes will be implemented through DRDA. ₹ 119.37 crore has been proposed to be allocated to Agriculture Department in this financial year.

## **FOREST AND WILDLIFE**

**37.** Hon'ble Members are well aware that development of social forestry plays pivotal role in helping environmental, social and rural development by providing clean air, fodder, timber and fuel. With

a view to strengthening the social forestry, it is proposed to plant around 50,000 forest tree saplings along the roadsides, tank bunds, educational institutions, industrial areas, and agricultural lands. Awareness programme on social forestry will be conducted extensively. It is proposed to distribute nearly one lakh tree saplings free of cost to the public, schools and NGOs to motivate tree plantation. In addition, action will be taken to cover an extent of 65 hectares of land under Social Forestry Scheme and Agro Forestry this year. Important roads of the city will be beautified by planting colourful tree saplings.

## **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE**

**38.** Animal husbandry plays an important role in rural economy. It is an integral component of agriculture supporting livelihood of rural population. Hon'ble members are well aware that my Government gives priority to this sector and implement various schemes to improve the quality of livestocks.

**39.** I am proud to announce a new scheme called “Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Animal Husbandry Rejuvenation Mission” this year. Its important component are as follows :

- (i) In order to obtain maximum milk production of individual milch animals, the target for artificial insemination for cattle to produce desirable future stock with superior Germplasm has been fixed as 70,000 and, it is targeted to produce 20,000 calves for the year 2020-21. With a view to providing more profit and increased milk production, my Government proposes to purchase 5,000 doses of high pedigree Sexed Semen, to produce only female calves with more productivity efficiency. Hybrid milch animals give 10 litres milk on an average whereas ordinary cows give 6 litres only. Hence roughly an amount of ₹ 4,000 per month can be earned additionally.

- (ii) My Government is taking action to extend the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to dairy farmers also with a view to benefitting the milk producing farmers. Action is being taken to issue credit card to 2,000 persons rearing Cow / Buffalo this year (2020-21), apart from PONLAIT Co-op. Federation and DRDA. Accordingly, action will be taken to provide bank loan to dairy farmers. Those who are having two milch cows will get ₹ 30,000 and those who rear two high quality Murra Buffaloes will get ₹ 42,700 as loan. The maximum ceiling of loan per person will be ₹ 2 lakh. Similarly, action will be taken to provide bank loan for poultry and goat-rearing. Persons rearing 10 goats will be given loan of ₹ 20,000 through banks. Further, action will be taken to provide bank loan for persons rearing 1,000 meat chicken with 6 weeks of age, to the extent of ₹ 50,000 and ₹ 2,50,000 loan for those

rearing 5,000 meat chicken. Bank loan to the extent of ₹ 50,000 will be arranged for rearing 1,000 Egg Chicken of upto 1½ years of age. Also, bank loan of ₹ 20,000 will be arranged for rearing 2 cows or buffalo for the purpose of veterinary green fodder @ 7% interest. 3% interest subvention will be granted for prompt repayment of above loan to the farmers rearing milch animals.

- (iii) Central subsidy will be granted this year for purchase of milch cows at 25% for general category and at 33.3% for SC/ST. In addition, action will be taken to grant 10% State subsidy to all category of persons. Steps will be taken to distribute 2,000 milch cows through Animal Husbandry Department this year.
- (iv) In order to improve livestock health, breeding and productivity efficiency for increased milk production, the project of

“Area Specific Mineral Mixture” (ASMM) introduced already in three villages last year, will be extended to all the villages of the Union Territory of Puducherry this year. As 50 gram mineral mixture at ₹ 3 is given to each cow and buffalo daily, additional half litre milk can be obtained each time. By way of this, an additional income of ₹ 1,000 per milch animal will be possible.

- (v) A scheme for mobile artificial insemination will be implemented for the benefit of farmers in remote villages. 15 two wheelers will be involved for this purpose.
- (vi) It is proposed to impart training to 1,000 beneficiaries in each commune of this Union Territory on Animal Husbandry in co-ordination with veterinary college, Animal Husbandry Department, Banks and insurance companies. Moreover, action will be taken to provide Government assistance and bank loans for rearing milch animals.

(vii) In order to ensure nutritional protection to the college students and youngsters and to encourage them in start-up ventures, a new scheme for rearing backyard country chicken will be implemented. Chicks will be supplied to students at free of cost and, consultancy facilities provided to them for marketing the chicken reared by them.

**40.** In order to increase egg and meat production, through poultry sector, renovation work will be undertaken in the poultry farms of Kariamanickam, Puducherry and Kotucherry, Karaikal.

**41.** Under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) which is a Central Sector Scheme aimed at preventing and controlling Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis, the work relating to issue of Unique Identification Number (UID) to all cattle above 4 months of age will be completed soon. 7,000 cattles have been given the UID number so far. The remaining 66,000 cattles will be given the

UID numbers before September 2020. In order to achieve the above said target, biannual mass vaccination of FMD is being undertaken for all susceptible species like cattle, sheep, goat and pig. Brucellosis vaccination will be done to all female calves of 4-8 months of age.

**42.** It is proposed to introduce a new "Distance Education System" in collaboration with other higher educational institutions by Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER). It will conduct a "Research on Cattle Health" in collaboration with Universities in France and Sudan. Administrative approval for increasing the undergraduate and postgraduate seats for the academic year 2021-22, will be obtained in this financial year itself. This will largely benefit the Puducherry students.

**43.** Cattle feeds subsidy, being given at present under the existing schemes will continue to be provided this year also. ₹ 42.92 crore has been proposed to be allocated for this department.



## **CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**44.** The Hon'ble Members are already aware that my Government is committed to according top priority for the free rice scheme intended for the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. Despite financial constraints, an amount of ₹ 176 crore has been proposed to be allocated for this purpose in 2020-21. Further, with a view to ensuring that the poor families who are affected by the lockdown due to COVID-19 and have lost job opportunities/works do not suffer from hunger or malnutrition, an additional amount of ₹ 100 crore will be allocated this year for settling the previous years' outstanding rice dues on account of free distribution of rice to BPL and APL cardholders. The amount equivalent to the rice entitlement to BPL and APL families will be credited to their respective bank account.

**45.** In order to enable all the citizens of the country to get their ration items from any place in the country even if migrated to other places, under

“One Nation One Ration Card Scheme”, the Fair Price Shops in the Union Territory of Puducherry will be upgraded. All the ration cards will be linked to Aadhaar number and biometric authentication and, supplies will be made through Fair Price Shops to all.

**46.** In spite of difficult financial situation, my Government has managed to extend financial support by disbursing an amount of ₹ 2,000 to each family through DBT mode for 3,44,701 ration card holders (both BPL and APL) to mitigate their hardship due to COVID-19 crisis, involving financial implication of ₹ 68.16 crore to the exchequer. In addition, 30 Kg. rice have been distributed to all the APL families excluding Government Servants and Income Tax payers. All BPL families have been provided 60 Kgs. of rice @ 5 Kgs. per month per beneficiary separately in connection with the health crisis on account of COVID-19.

**47.** The online portal to provide ration card related services through online has been created and the same will become operational shortly. These services can be availed through Common Service Centres also.

## **CO-OPERATION**

**48.** Co-operative sector offers opportunity for employment, income generation, and increase the availability of goods and services and ultimately contributes to the economic growth. As a part of the initiatives in Co-operative sector, it is proposed to set-up a modern rice mill at an estimated cost of ₹ 3 crore through the Karaikal Central Co-operative Processing Supply and Marketing Society. The Cattle Feed Testing Laboratory will be modernized by the Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers Union at a cost of ₹ 37 lakh under the National Live Stock Mission Scheme. The Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 25 lakh to PONLAIT as 50% subsidy

for the purchase of two insulated/refrigerated transport vehicles worth ₹ 50 lakh under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

**49.** With a view to increasing the milk production and the number of milk cows through the PONLAIT Dairy and its related Co-operative Societies, it has been proposed to give fodder subsidy based on the quantity of milk produced. PONLAIT procures about 55,000 litres milk daily whereas the demand per day is around 1,10,000 litres of milk. The demand is met out from private dairies and other States' Co-operative Societies. Therefore, in order to increase the milk production and to avoid purchase of milk from outside, action will be taken to give fodder subsidy not exceeding ₹ 2 per litre to the cow owners. Additional funds for this purpose have been allocated in this financial year. This scheme will be named as "Desa Pitha Mahatma Gandhi Milk Production Improvement Scheme". This scheme will also be implemented through KOLAIT Milk Co-operative Society,

Karaikal. The Union Territory of Puducherry will become self-sufficient in milk production through implementation of this scheme. Action will be taken to provide loan to 7,500 members of milk producers' co-operative societies who own cow and buffaloes, under Kissan Credit Card scheme. In order to double the income of milk producing cattle farmers, a new integrated scheme will be implemented in this financial year. Under this scheme, more number of milch animals will be given through bank loans.

## **SCHOOL EDUCATION**

**50.** Having realised that people must remain educated for strengthening the democracy, my Government has been implementing many schemes in school education sector with a view to providing free and quality education to everyone especially to the poor. As the schools are the place which determine the future of the children, my Government has been implementing various student welfare programmes

like free supply of uniform, textbooks, notebooks, milk in the morning, midday meals, transport facilities @ ₹ 1 per student, scholarship etc. These welfare schemes have contributed to substantial reduction in the number of dropout in schools and, to availing of maximum benefits of school education. I assure the Hon'ble members that all the above stated welfare measures will continue to be implemented.

**51.** At present, milk is being supplied to students in schools. My Government has proposed to expand this scheme by providing breakfast in the name of “Kalaingar Karunanidhi Breakfast Scheme”. Under this scheme Idly, Pongal, Kitchadi will be provided to students as breakfast. A sum of ₹ 6 crore has been allocated for this purpose. This scheme will be implemented from 14th November 2020 on the Children’s Day.

**52.** With the school remaining closed now due to the spread of Corona Virus, a new scheme called “Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Education Technology

Development Scheme” will be implemented in this academic year (2020-21) under which lessons will be taught through Television, Community Radio, and Websites so that the studies are not affected. The following will be the components of the new scheme.

- (i) It has been proposed to teach lessons through special TV Channels, Community Radios, Tablets etc., for which new educational channels will be introduced. Further, new radio channels will be put into use through exclusive community Radio for taking lessons. This will be implemented at a cost of ₹ 4 crore.
- (ii) A digital studio will be set by School Education Department.
- (iii) In order to help the students in learning in this present COVID-19 situation, village education centres will be established with the support of voluntary organisations and social activists. Action will be taken to

teach students when students are not able to go to school, and morning & evening in these centres observing social distance and other safety measures. Large LED screen TVs and computers will be made available in these centres for teaching.

- (iv) It has been proposed to establish Digital Class Rooms in rural schools at a cost of ₹ 2.76 crore with the financial assistance from the Central Government this year.
- (v) Revised administrative guidelines will be notified for undertaking minor maintenance and renovation works in schools by the respective school Management committees themselves.
- (vi) Selected Government schools will be converted into model schools so as to improve the quality of education.



- (vii) A sum of ₹ 19 crore will be spent this year for maintenance of school buildings and infrastructure development.
- (viii) The Government of India has advised to integrate the Pre-KG with the school education. That an integrated development in children can be attained in school atmosphere only, is psychology. Accordingly, it has been decided to attach initially 50 anganwadis in Puducherry with the nearby Government Primary School. This will help the anganwadi children utilise the potential available in the primary schools, and create opportunities for learning.
- (ix) Taking into consideration the changes in learning process on account of COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to reduce the hardship faced by the poor students, Tablets will be distributed to all students of

10th and 12th standard, studying in Government Schools, under the scheme “Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Students Education and Technical Development Scheme” to attend online classes.

**53.** At present students hailing from financially backward families and studying in Government schools have to undergo a long administrative procedure to avail the educational scholarship. To avoid the hardships of our students and to make it easier for them to get the scholarship, simplified administrative procedure will be implemented from the academic year 2020-21.

**54.** In order get various datas of schools in time which plays an important role in school management and helps the Head of the institutions and officials in assessing the position, my Government has proposed to implement a digitalised administrative procedure called “School Management System” in School Education

Department. Through this system various data about schools like infrastructure, attendance of students and teachers, teaching methods, students performance etc. can be shared through internet and necessary action for improvement taken expeditiously.

**55.** The student evaluation method (DEAL) which has been implemented since last year will continue this year too for evaluating the learning of primary school students. Under this schemes, “Base Line Test” will be conducted for students. This will help in identifying the hardships in learning and to overcome the difficulties, three months continuous coaching will be implemented. Through Achievement Test conducted after this coaching the progress of students will be evaluated. As this scheme is implemented on the basis of learning index, improvement in learning skills of students is being assured. ₹ 695.41 crore has been proposed to be allocated for this department in the current financial year.

## **SPORTS AND YOUTH WELFARE**

**56.** A “Sports Development Authority” in the Union Territory of Puducherry will be established in this academic year by integrating the existing Pondicherry State Sports Council and Rajiv Gandhi School of Sports. This will facilitate better co-ordination and speedy disposal of all the works relating to sports promotion.

**57.** In order to facilitate sports practice from dawn to dusk, all the existing sports infrastructure available in schools, colleges, and public places will be inspected and the infrastructure facilities will be improved with the help of State Sports Associations. New administrative procedures in coordination with sports associations, will be implemented from this year (2020-21). This will largely benefit students and youth. Opportunities will be more for getting specially trained in their preferred sports activities.

**58.** Cash awards to sports persons who have won in national and international sports events, and subsidy to sports associations will be given soon.

## **HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**59.** My Government attaches due importance to Higher Education like School Education. Higher Education Department ensures providing an environment for students to choose higher studies according to their choice by creating opportunities and infrastructure in higher education.

**60.** My Government has proposed to allocate ₹ 31.35 crore under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance scheme in the budget. In order to increase the number of students doing Ph.D. in Government Arts and Science Colleges, ₹ 70,000 will be given this year to each student doing Ph.D.

**61.** A student welfare fund namely “Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Student Welfare Fund” will be set up in this year. Financial assistance to students for medical

expenses and other welfare measures will be provided from out of this fund. Guidelines will be framed for this scheme this year. ₹ 50 lakh will be allocated for this scheme in this year in the first instance.

**62.** A new educational town namely "Mahatma Gandhi Educational City" will be established covering the higher educational institutions situated at Lawspet, Puducherry such as Kanchi Mamunivar Post Graduate Centre, Tagore Arts and Science College, Community College, other higher educational institutions, schools, sports centres, Motilal Nehru Government Polytechnic, Industrial Training Institute, etc. A master plan for this will be prepared soon.

**63.** I am happy to inform that due to the constant efforts taken by my Government, the Hon'ble President of India has given consent in March 2020 to the Bill for upgrading Pondicherry Engineering College as "Puducherry Technological University". Accordingly, Puducherry Technological University Act has been notified on 24-6-2020 in the Gazette of Puducherry.

That this university is the first State University in the Union Territory of Puducherry is a pride for all of us. Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Karaikal and Yanam Engineering College will function under the ambit of the Puducherry Technological University from this year. All the Government Polytechnics will be brought under the purview of this University.

**64.** New courses being preferred by students' *i.e.*, (i) Agriculture Engineering; (ii) Petro Chemical Engineering; and (iii) Bio-medical Engineering will be introduced in Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Institute of Engineering and Technology (PKIET), Karaikal this year. By way of introduction of these new courses, this college will become an institution of being a non-traditional, diversified Engineering courses college. Already 25 acre land has been allocated for building a new college complex for PKIET, in Karaikal. Further, it has been proposed to allocate ₹ 7 crore for development of infrastructure here. The existing premises of PKIET is to be renovated at a cost of ₹ 25 lakh.

**65.** The newly started Yanam Engineering College will have specialized courses in Computer Engineering on par with the pattern being followed in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). I am glad to announce that Yanam Engineering College will function from this year itself with three Engineering Courses *viz.*, (i) Robotic and Automation; (ii) 3D Animation and Graphics; and (iii) Digital Techniques for Design and Planning. The construction work for this college to the extent of ₹ 26 crore will be completed in this year itself. This college will be named after the former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

**66.** I am happy to inform that a proposal to upgrade the Kanchi Mamunivar Post-Graduate Centre as Arts and Science University has been submitted to the Government of India. Further, an amount of ₹ 5 crore has been received from the Government of India for development of research activities in this institution. A proposal to establish a “School of Planning and Architecture” in Puducherry also has



been sent to Government of India. Further, efforts are being taken to establish a centre of National Institute of Fashion Technology. Administrative works pertaining to upgrading the Puducherry Government Law College as National Law University have already Commenced, and draft bill is being prepared. Works relating to getting approval from all quarters will be completed in this year itself (2020-21).

**67.** During last year, in Puducherry Engineering College, 240 seats were enhanced in the following 4 disciplines.– (i) Electronics and Communication; (ii) Civil; (iii) Mechanical; and (iv) Computer Science Engineering. Similarly approval will be obtained for the enhancement of 180 seats in the following three courses. (i) Electronics and Instrumentation, (ii) Electrical and Electronics, and (iii) Information Technology, during the current academic year. The approval is being considered by the Central Government. Further, approval has been obtained for starting of a new branch namely B.Tech. (Mechatronics)

with an intake of 60 students during this academic year itself. Similarly, approval has been obtained for starting MBA programme in Innovation Entrepreneur and Venture Development from this academic year in Puducherry Engineering College with an intake of 60 seats.

**68.** Besides four job oriental Bachelor of Vocational courses (B.Voc.) will be started by Pondicherry Engineering College in the Polytechnics College by utilizing their faculty and infrastructure from this academic year. Based on this, it is proposed to start Interior Design (Civil) in Women's Polytechnic College, Puducherry, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (Mechanical) in Motilal Nehru Government Polytechnic College, Communication (Electronics and Communication) in Women's Polytechnic College, Karaikal and Graphics and Multimedia and Mobile App. Development (Computer Science / Information Technology) in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Polytechnic College, Yanam with 30 seats in each branch from this academic year.

**69.** I am happy to inform that approval has been obtained from the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) for setting up its Centre at Women's Polytechnic College, Puducherry during this academic year itself to offer Diploma, Certificate and Training Programs in IT related job oriental courses.

**70.** The administrative processes such as restructuring of posts, filling up of posts, creation of new posts, revision of recruitment rules in Government Colleges will be completed in this year. The existing College Management System will be upgraded soon at the cost of ₹ 1 crore. This will pave way for getting integrated Higher Education to the students through internet by providing various data on colleges.

**71.** The application fee for admission to Government Arts and Science Colleges, Law College, Polytechnic Colleges, Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary, Medical Colleges will be waived off completely this

year. More than 10,000 students will be benefited by this move. Besides, the student belonging to below poverty line family will get total exemption from paying other fees such as library fee, sports day fee, college magazine fee, college day fee, laboratory fee etc. A target of ₹ 87 crore has been fixed for this academic year (2020-21) for grant of educational loan to students through banks.

**72.** Following the model of Community College functioning in Lawspet, a new Community College is to be setup by Pondicherry University in Mahe region. Two acres of land has been identified for this in Mahe region and the land will be handed over to Pondicherry University soon. This would benefit the students and youth of Mahe.

**73.** I wish to inform this House that ₹ 272.36 crore is proposed to be allocated for Higher and Technical Education in the year 2020-21.

## **ELECTRICITY**

**74.** The Hon'ble members are well aware that my Government provides 24 x 7 power supply to all categories of consumers. It is proposed to replace the existing 10/16 MVA power transformers with 25 MVA power transformers at Villianur, Kalapet and Korkadu substation at an estimated cost of ₹ 2.03 crore. In the site already acquired at Lawspet, the work for setting up of a substation will begin this year. Approval has been issued to setup an exclusive Electrical Inspectorate for issuing licenses and for conducting inspections efficiently in the Union Territory of Puducherry. This body will be functional from this year.

**75.** Besides, it is proposed to energize 80 distribution transformers of various ratings. It is also proposed to erect 15 kms. of HT lines and 30 kms. of LT lines. It is proposed to give HT line connection for 10 industries, LT line connection for

50 industries, power connection for 30 agricultural pump sets, 13,000 houses, 1,500 commercial firms, and 500 new street lights. It is proposed to lay new high and low tension underground cable to the extent of 10 Kms. Besides, 100 low tension overhead connections are to be converted into underground cable. It is proposed to convert 10,000 defective Electro Mechanical Meters into Electro Static meters this year.

**76.** I would like to inform that the information regarding power failure is being announced in advance through newspapers. Similar information would be informed through SMS also, and the Electricity Department will be directed accordingly.

**77.** Under the scheme of installation of Roof top solar power panels at subsidised rates for residential power consumers, roof top solar power panels with a total capacity of 30 MW along with electrical infrastructure, at the cost of ₹ 150 crore are proposed

to be installed for residential power consumers. This will be implemented with 40% of financial assistance from the Government of India and the remaining 60% through contribution from the consumers. The solar power so generated may be utilized by the power consumers at a lower cost.

**78.** A new scheme namely “Puducherry Electric Energy Promotion Scheme” will be established in the Electricity Department and through this steps will be taken to promote the solar energy generated from the rooftop solar panels to be installed and other renewable energy. It is proposed to install solar panels on 15,000 rooftops of houses approximately so as to generate 30 MW of power. It is also proposed to setup solar panel in Pondicherry Engineering College through CSR funds to generate 2 MW power, and to install solar panels on buildings of Agriculture Department in Kariamanickam, Kurumbapet, KVK farm to generate 2 MW power. Considering the power saved through this, the present benefit of 50% power subsidy enjoyed by poor households,

consuming upto 100 units, will be given 100% waiver from this financial year. Thus, around 1,40,000 poor households consuming upto 100 units will get free electricity. The power consumption charges to be paid by these families will be paid by the Government.

**79.** Under the scheme of installing solar panels with power infrastructure in the lands belonging to Government, solar panels will be installed in the lands belonging to the Department of Agriculture situated at Kariamanickam and Aiyankuttipalayam with a capacity to generate 1.50 to 2.0 MW power generation. This would not affect the agricultural activities and this scheme will be implemented in private agricultural lands also.

**80.** The following works are proposed under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS):

- 31 new transformers will be installed in Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam.



- 4,831 Single phase LPRF meters and 932 three phase LPRF meters will be installed in Karaikal region.
- 9.45 Kms. underground cable will be installed in Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam.
- 10 Kms. overhead high tension lines will be installed in Puducherry.
- 140 KWp solar power generation panels will be installed in Government buildings in Puducherry region.

The following works are proposed to be implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes :

- 8 new transformers will be installed in Puducherry.
- 10,328 single phase LPRF meters and 11,307 three phase LPRF meters will be installed in Puducherry and Karaikal regions.

- 1,250 transformer meters will be installed in Puducherry and Karaikal regions.
- 35 Kms. overhead line will be installed in Puducherry and Karaikal regions.

**81.** In order to meet the increasing power demand in the Union Territory of Puducherry, it has been proposed to undertake a comprehensive power transmission and distribution improvement scheme at a cost of ₹ 746.53 crore by availing loan from Japan International Co-operative Agency (JICA).

**82.** The existing four 10/16 MVA transformers in Villianur, Kalapet, Korkadu and Thirubuvanai sub-stations will be replaced with 25 MVA transformers at a cost of ₹ 4.06 crore.

**83.** It is proposed to install 30 new transformers and enhance the capacity of 20 transformers. It has been proposed to change 110 LT lines as underground cable. Further, 15,000 old metres will be changed as electro static metres.

**84.** 100% subsidy for all agricultural consumers is being given from 2017-18 onwards in the Union Territory of Puducherry and the same will be continued in the year 2020-21 also.

**85.** Employees working in Electricity Department sometimes happen to die due to electrical accident. In order to safeguard their interest, my Government have decided to implement an accident insurance scheme providing insurance cover of ₹ 10 lakh. A sum of ₹ 1,736.87 crore has been proposed to be allocated to Electricity Department in this financial year.

## **FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE**

**86.** My Government is committed to ensuring the well being of the fishermen community. A new fishermen welfare scheme called “Sinthanai Sirpi Singaravelar Fisheries Rejuvenation Scheme” integrating the existing fishermen welfare schemes and the new scheme

proposed to be introduced this year and, the farmers Kisan Credit Card Scheme, from this year. This will help in increasing fishing capability, island fishing, and to double the income of fishermen. This will also help in generating direct and indirect job opportunities. Further this will pave way for ensuring protection to fishermen and fisheries and better fisheries management. The component of the scheme are as follows :

- (i) An announced in the year 2019-20, the old age pension to fishermen was increased from ₹ 1,570 to ₹ 2,000 for the persons aged at 50-59, from ₹ 2,090 to ₹ 2,500 for persons of 60-79 years of age and from ₹ 3,135 to ₹ 3,500 for the persons of 80 years and above. Accordingly the Old Age Pension is being paid to fishermen community. This increased pension will be continuously paid this year also. ₹ 22 crore has been allocated for this purpose.

- (ii) The existing ban relief assistance of ₹ 5,500 per family to fishermen community will be increased as ₹ 6,500 per family from this year for which necessary allocation of fund to the tune of ₹ 12.41 crore will be made and distributed.
  
- (iii) Keeping in view the hardship being faced by the fishermen during the rainy season from October to December, the existing lean season assistance of ₹ 2,500 per family will be increased to ₹ 3,000 per family and funds will be allocated for this purpose.
  
- (iv) The existing Death Relief Benefit of ₹ 2 lakh being granted to fishermen family in the event of death of fishermen will continue to be implemented for which required funds have been allocated.

- (v) The Government has considered the long standing demand of the fishermen to grant financial assistance to undertake repair works for outboard motor boats, non-motorised boats, catamaran etc. during lean season, as is given for big motorised boats. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that it has been proposed to grant financial assistance for repairing registered FRP boats, and FRP catamarans to the extent of ₹ 5,000 for which ₹ 1.13 crore has been allocated.
- (vi) The financial assistance ₹ 20,000 being given during the fishing ban period for repair works of wooden / steel / fiber motorised boats will be increased to ₹ 30,000. The financial assistance given to registered Gill Netters motorised boats will be increased from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 20,000 from this year.

- (vii) The amount of 75% of insurance premium for registered motorised boats, which is being reimbursed will be paid to the Insurance Companies by the Department of Fisheries. The expenditure of ₹ 46 lakh required for this purpose is proposed to be allocated.
- (viii) The scheme of giving 50% subsidy to the tune of ₹ 20 lakh towards purchase of new Wooden/Steel/fiber motorised boats will be implemented this year.
- (ix) The scheme of giving 50% subsidy to the tune of ₹ 16,500 towards purchase of new fiber catamaran without motor will continue this year too.
- (x) As announced by our Government, an amount of ₹ 1.33 crore required to distribute 2,650 Ice-box for fish vendors will be allocated in this financial year and steps will be taken to distribute the free ice-boxes to fish vendors.

- (xi) To increase inland fish culture, an input subsidy @ ₹ 7,500 per acre will be given to fresh water fish farmers this year also. The amount of ₹ 26.90 lakh required for this purpose will be allocated.
- (xii) A sum of ₹ 32.75 lakh, required for giving cash award to students of fishing community, who score 75% and above in 10th standard and 12th standard will be allocated this year and the scheme will continue this year too.
- (xiii) 50% subsidy presently being given towards the purchase of fishing materials to the members of Fishermen Co-operative Societies of Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam will continue this year too. Amount of ₹ 40 lakh required for this is proposed to be allocated.



- (xiv) To enhance the skills of fishermen, fish farmers, fish vendors and officials of Fisheries Department, a training package is proposed at a cost of ₹ 4.58 lakh. Besides, in order to introduce new scheme and to upgrade the existing schemes in the Department of Fisheries, evaluation and survey is essential. Therefore, steps will be taken to gather the fisheries database/ profile at a cost of ₹ 45.80 lakh.
- (xv) Under the schemes being implemented with the contribution of beneficiaries, ₹ 53.20 lakh will be given as subsidy for freshwater fish culture under the scheme of "Construction of new fish farm ponds" at an estimate of ₹ 7 lakh per hectare to the extent of 15 hectares.
- (xvi) In order to enable the newly married fishermen couple to get the ban period and lean period assistance, approved

marriage certificates will be accepted instead of family ration cards. Necessary amendment will be introduced in the scheme guidelines for this purpose.

- (xvii) The funeral assistance will be enhanced from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 10,000 and paid to the legal heirs of deceased fishermen receiving old age pension.
- (xviii) The fishing port consisting of boat jetty, cold chain facilities, fish market and other related infrastructure developed in Puducherry Union Territory with the assistance of Central Government, Union Territory Government, World Bank and MP - LAD fund for the benefit of fishermen of Union Territory of Puducherry will be declared as "Public Property" by issuing a Government Order accordingly soon. This will pave way for utilizing all the above infrastructure facilities by all the fishermen of Puducherry Union Territory.

- (xix) Fisheries Development Corporation will be established on the World Fishermen Day i.e., 21st November 2020.
- (xx) In order to protect the fisheries assets and ensure the sustained livelihood of fishermen, 50% subsidy not exceeding ₹ 5 lakh will be given for converting the existing Purse Seine as trawlers.
- (xxi) Under the “Brackish water fish farming scheme” subsidy will be granted to 7 beneficiaries @ ₹ 8 lakh per hectare upto 5 hectare for a total sum of ₹ 20.80 lakh.
- (xxii) Input subsidy at ₹ 6 lakh per hectare for an extent of 6 hectare for a total amount of ₹ 15.60 lakh for brackish aquaculture will be granted.
- (xxiii) Financial assistance to the extent of ₹ 8.40 lakh will be granted for setting up of backyard freshwater aquaculture units

under the scheme “Ornamental and Luxurious Fish Farming”. To setup medium range ornamental fish farming (sea and fresh water fishes) units, an amount of ₹ 3.20 lakh will be provided. Financial assistance of ₹ 10 lakh will be given for setting up of integrated ornamental fish farming units (fresh water fish breeding and rearing).

- (xxiv) Under the “Technology Infusion and Adoption” scheme, 5 persons involved in fish farming will be provided financial assistance of ₹ 1.20 lakh so as to gain more yield through backyard recycle fish farming.
- (xxv) It is proposed to extend financial assistance to interested private start-ups to establish cold storages / Ice plants with 10-50 ton capacity at a cost of ₹ 40 lakh under the beneficiary oriented scheme.

- (xxvi) It is proposed to grant subsidy to the beneficiaries / interested private start-ups for purchase of Refrigerated Vehicles at ₹ 10 lakh per unit (being 40% of the cost of vehicle of ₹ 25 lakh).
- (xxvii) It is proposed to grant financial assistance for purchase of insulated vehicle at ₹ 20 lakh per vehicle for 3 beneficiaries / interested private start-ups. It is also proposed to grant 40% subsidy for purchase of motorcycle with Ice-box costing ₹ 75,000 per vehicle. Subsidy will be given to 20 beneficiaries for a total sum of ₹ 6 lakh. Similarly 40% subsidy is proposed to be granted for setting up of "Live Fish Vending Centre" to 2 interested persons in fish culture / private start-ups. ₹ 24 lakh will be given for this purpose.
- (xxviii) Subsidy at 60% will be given to 5 interested private start-ups to establish "Fish Kiosks" at a cost of ₹ 10 lakh per unit.

₹ 30 lakh will be provided for this purpose. Further, total subsidy of ₹ 60 lakh will be given to 2 interested private start-ups for establishing "Value Added Fish Vending Units" at a cost of ₹ 50 lakh per units.

- (xxix) Action will be taken to create facilities for e-vending of fish and its related products in Karaikal.
- (xxx) Financial assistance will be provided to traditional fishermen for purchasing deep sea vessels under the deep sea fishing promotion scheme. In order to reduce the financial burden of fishermen, in addition to the 40% Central share (₹ 48 lakh), Union Territory Government will also give ₹ 30 lakh being 25% share of the cost of ₹ 1.20 crore of the deep sea vessels.
- (xxxi) State subsidy of 20% in addition to the Central subsidy of 40% for building 'Bio-Toilet' at a cost of ₹ 50,000 per unit in

registered mechanised boats will be given. Likewise Central assistance will be granted to fisherwomen also.

(xxxii) In addition to the 40% Central subsidy, State subsidy of 20%, will be given for purchase of communication/GPS equipments at a cost of ₹ 35,000 per unit for use in registered mechanised boats. Similarly, in addition to the 60% Central subsidy, State subsidy of 20% will also be given to fisherwomen.

(xxxiii) In order to ensure safety of fishermen at sea, safety equipments will be purchased. State subsidy of 20% in addition to the Central subsidy of 40% will be given for this purpose to the registered mechanised boats keeping the estimated price of the equipment at ₹ 1 lakh per unit. Similarly, State subsidy of 20% in addition to the

Central subsidy of 60% will be given to the fisherwomen in whose name mechanised boat has been registered.

- (xxxiv) Under the CSS Fishermen Livelihood and Nutrition Programme (Savings-*cum*-Relief Fund), full time fishermen having been a member of the fishermen/women Co-op. Society and belonging to BPL family and within the age of 18-60 can be benefitted. An amount of ₹ 3,000 being double the amount of beneficiary share of ₹ 1,500, will be obtained from the Central Government and a total amount of ₹ 4,500 will be given.

**87.** Second phase extension work will be taken up in the fishing harbours of Karaikal and Yanam regions. Project reports have been prepared for establishing Fish Landing Centres in Periyakalapet, Nallavadu and Thengaithittu fishermen villages at a cost of ₹ 10.17 crore, ₹ 10.15 crore and



₹ 31.10 crore respectively. 407 mechanised catamarans will be benefitted by these projects. As the maximum project cost for Thengaithittu fish landing centre has been revised as ₹ 25 crore, the remaining amount will be availed through bank loans or from NABARD (RIDF). Fish Landing Centre will be set up at Pattinacherry in Karaikal region. It has been proposed to desilt the entrance of fishing harbours in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions and the “Near Wharf Area” of Puducherry fishing harbour.

**88.** Works relating to prevention of accumulation of sand at the river entrance in Ariyankuppam will be carried out with the assistance of the Central Government organisations situated in Pune and Bengaluru. It has been proposed to set up a retail fish market at Nellithope through Puducherry Municipality in order to benefit 120 fisherwomen and 1,000 general public. A wholesale fish market will also be constructed in Karaikal.

**89.** Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, a sub-scheme called “Sagar Mitra” is to be implemented in all seaside fishermen villages. Youngster having a degree in Zoology/Fisheries will be involved in this scheme purely on contract basis. These persons will act as a goodwill bridge between Fisheries Department and fishermen. They will explain the fishermen about the existing Central and State schemes for the welfare of fishermen, the existing guidelines and Government orders pertaining to these schemes. Further, they will monitor the arrival of fish, boats etc. and keep the Government informed accordingly. These youngsters will be provided with laptop, and mobile phone, in addition to monthly remuneration. Through the funds obtained under this scheme, the brackish water area in Moorthikuppam and Pudukuppam fishermen villages will be improved and action will be taken to hand over the area to the Primary Fisheries Co-op. Societies / Male / Female self-help Groups of the respective areas.

**90.** With the 100% financial assistance from the Central Government under the “Pradhan Mandri Matsya Sambadha Yojana”, two fishermen villages each one in Puducherry and Karaikal regions will be converted as “Integrated Modern Seashore Fishing Villages” at a cost of ₹ 750 lakh per village. This will increase the income and social benefits of the seashore fishermen, through regular fishing.

**91.** Under the “Pradhan Mandri Matsya Sambadha Scheme”, action will be taken for establishment of an integrated “Aqua Park” in Yanam region with 100% central assistance. By way of establishing the integrated Aqua Park in the Government land given to the fishermen co-op. societies in Yanam region for shrimp culture, adequate infrastructure facility and technological support for fish processing, fish culture, preparation of value added fish products like pickles and export them will be available under a single roof. Also 5,000 fishermen of Yanam region will get employment opportunities. Therefore, a detailed project report as per the guidelines of the PMMSY scheme

will be prepared and action taken to get funds from the Government of India. Project reports will be called for from interested private entrepreneurs for getting financial assistance under this scheme. An amount of ₹ 63.22 crore has proposed to be allocated to this department in the current financial year.

## **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**92.** I once again express my sincere and deep appreciation to all the medical personnel who have been rendering selfless and untiring service round the clock in preventing the spread of deadly Corona virus and curing the patients in our Union Territory. My Government expresses gratitude to all the frontline workers including police personnel, sanitary workers, and revenue personnel. Union Territory of Puducherry remains in a better position than many other parts of the country in COVID-19 management and the people need not get panic at all. At the same time, I earnestly request the people of all walks of life to co-operate with the Government machinery in controlling

the spread of virus by following the simple but essential precautionary measures *viz.*, social distancing, hand washing and mask wearing.

**93.** In order to provide protection to all the people of Puducherry from all kinds of diseases and to provide better treatment, an Universal Health Coverage Scheme for all the family members of 3,40,000 family ration cards by restructuring the existing health insurance scheme is set to be launched immediately this year. I am happy to announce that this scheme will be named as “Indira Gandhi Health Insurance Scheme”. Under the scheme, it is proposed to allocate an additional amount of ₹ 16 crore to Health Department for free treatment of all families in Puducherry Union Territory including the poor and downtrodden families without any income limit.

**94.** COVID Test are conducted in JIPMER and Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute in Puducherry. The testing will be increased further in the coming days. Further, Mobile Testing Facility

through ambulance will also be arranged for testing people having symptoms of COVID-19 in containment zones as well as in red zone areas for expediting testing.

**95.** Already funds to the tune of ₹ 9.50 crore have been released to Health Department for procurement of masks and other equipments. In addition, a sum of ₹ 25 crore has been exclusively allocated to Health Department in the budget 2020-21 for COVID-19 related procurements. The Government Pharmacy has adequate stocks of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and also N-95 masks.

**96.** I alongwith Hon'ble Ministers and Members of Legislative Assembly personally visited all areas of the Union Territory of Puducherry, especially the areas affected by the Corona, and provided them with vegetables, free rice and groceries and comforted them. In addition, in the restricted areas affected by the Corona, rice, groceries and vegetables worth

₹ 500 were distributed to the families in those areas through the Revenue Department on a regular basis from out of Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

**97.** Migrant workers were sent to their hometown in separate buses and trains through expenditure from Chief Minister's Relief Fund. ₹ 20 lakh has been spent for this purpose. To protect the general public from Corona disease, the Department of Health, especially the AYUSH unit, has been providing antidotes such as Kapasura Kudi Neer, Nilavembu Kashayam and Arsenic Album to all the families in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

**98.** An additional 71 ventilators have been purchased in Government Hospitals in the last three months ever since the onset of Corona disease, *i.e.* after March this year for the welfare of the public. Currently, there are 131 ventilators, 5 additional defibrillators have been purchased and currently there are 13 defibrillators. In addition, 6 A.B.G. machines were purchased and there are currently 10 A.B.G. machines, 15 E.C.G. machines were purchased and

there are currently 21 E.C.G. machines. An additional 57 multi metre monitors have been purchased and currently there are 103 multi metre monitors; an additional 60 thermal scanners have been purchased and currently there are 64 thermal scanners. An additional 6 Anaesthesia machines have been purchased and currently we have 17 Anaesthesia machines. Additionally 30 intensive care unit beds have been purchased and at present 41 Intensive Care Unit beds are there. An additional 160 other different types of beds have been procured and currently 290 other different types of beds are available in Government Hospitals. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that 7 lakh three-fold masks, 1 lakh full body masks, 20,000 gloves, 4,000 N-95 masks, 1 lakh ordinary face masks, 1,000 R.D.P.C.R. tools, and 5,000 P.D.N. tools have been procured for the welfare of people.

**99.** I would like to inform that a total of 4,500 bed facilities have been kept ready in Government and private hospitals to deal with the Corona epidemic in the coming months.



**100.** My Government has comprehensively revamped the status of health care in the Union Territory and put in place a strategy to improve existing facilities and to expand public health care by providing adequate health infrastructure. Our primary goal is to restore the confidence of the poor in public health facilities by improving all Government Hospitals right from Primary Health Centres to General Hospitals.

**101.** People's Medical Centres called "Aathura Salai" will be set up in all residential areas. Medical services can be easily obtained in the villages through these Centres.

**102.** In order to encourage research on disease inducing germs and on various human diseases, Government Medical College, Dental College, Nursing College and other Medical Institutions will be integrated and a world-class new Medical Education and Research University will be established in Puducherry in 2021-22.

**103.** Further, under the Ayushman Bharath Scheme, Health and Wellness Centres are envisaged to deliver an expanded range of services to address the Primary Health Care needs of the entire population in their area, expanding access, universality and equity close to the community. All the 40 Primary Health Centre and 81 sub-centres in the Union Territory of Puducherry have been upgraded as Health wellness Centres along-with in-house doctors and ANMs. ₹ 10.08 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of India for maintenance of Wellness Centres. These centres will have facilities to have complete health check-up, particularly to cater to the rural patients. Telemedicine facility will be established between these rural centres and General Hospital, Puducherry through which people can secure specialist opinion from these rural centres themselves. A Primary Health Centre will be established in Palloor in the land already acquired.

**104.** It is proposed to procure a fully equipped Ambulance with Ventilator support for Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital in this

financial year. Keeping in pace with the global health care trends and in order to strengthen the existing medical services in the hospitals, it is proposed to procure certain high end equipments like: (i) High End Colour Doppler Scanner at a cost of ₹ 65 lakh and (ii) 16 slice CT Scanner, Microscope for ₹ 40 lakh. Construction works in the maternity block will be undertaken in Government General Hospital, Karaikal under Laqshya Programme of National Health Mission Scheme. Under Universal Immunization Programme, it is proposed to strengthen the effective surveillance system for Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD). Construction of first floor in the OPD block of ESI Hospital, Gorimedu will be taken up this year. ₹ 709.47 crore has been proposed to be allocated in the current financial year for Health Department.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**105.** My Government is keen on harnessing the potential of information and communication technology for effective governance. In order to avail the services

of various Government Departments by the residents from their locality itself, my Government has proposed to considerably increase the number of Common Service Centres (CSC). Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AEPS) of bank payment called as “Digi Pay” will be launched through CSCs at the earliest.

## **LABOUR**

**106.** As an initiative to enable the youth to get employment, skill training to 12,000 candidates are proposed to be imparted over a period of 5 years under six projects *viz.*, training for Artisans, training in Tourism and Hospitality Sector, training in Sustainable Fishing and Safety training, Boat repair, Building construction trainings, Scuba diving / Snorkeling Training, training in Aquaculture and Sea Food Processing under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). Besides, additional areas with high potential and demand for skilled manpower will be identified and 18,000 candidates will be trained in the next five

years. Overall 30,000 candidates will have undergone skill training by the end of 2025. Training will be given to Scheduled Caste candidates with M.Phil. and Ph.D. qualification to clear NET examination.

**107.** ₹ 1.75 crore is proposed to be sanctioned by Government of India to start a Model Technical Training Centre at Mettupalayam. As a part of labour welfare measures, the members of the age group from 18 to 40 years who enrolled in Puducherry Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board will be granted pension @ ₹ 3,000 per month on attaining the age of 60 years under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana (PMSYM). It is proposed to extend Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) which provides a coverage of maximum of ₹ 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India, to the construction workers.

**108.** Financial assistance to procure safety equipment like helmets, safety shoes and gloves etc., will be provided to construction workers. Further, in order to take care of mentally retarded / handicapped children of construction workers, ₹ 1,200 per month for each child will be provided from this financial year. Registered construction workers who are found suffering from serious ailment like kidney failure, cardiac / heart ailments, liver disorder, silicosis and cancer will be provided financial assistance upto ₹ 75,000 depending upon the intensity of the disease.

**109.** My Government is equally concerned about the welfare of the unregistered workers and migrant workers. It is proposed to give financial assistance to such workers in the event of death and disability due to accident in worksite. ₹ 1,00,000 incase of fatal accident at worksite and onetime disability relief of ₹ 50,000 for partial permanent disability above 50%, and for disability between 25% to 50% ₹ 10,000 will be provided.

## **INDUSTRIES**

**110.** The Hon'ble Members of this august Assembly are well aware that the Start-up policy for the Union Territory of Puducherry was announced in the year 2019. The salient features of the Start-up policy are:

- (i) Building a conducive platform with suitable infrastructure to support the investors by means of time-bound financial support and required technical support and also implementing simplified, supportive and self-regulatory system.
- (ii) Providing necessary support from the initial stage to the execution of their project or till their marketing period.
- (iii) Financial grant upto ₹ 3 lakh as subsidy for the projects recommended by the incubators established by the Educational Institutions.

- (iv) Monthly allowances of ₹ 10,000 per person upto a maximum of 5 persons for innovative start-ups till completion of their projects. Similarly, monthly allowance for Women, Scheduled Caste, Differently Abled Persons and Transgender of a maximum of ₹ 15,000 will be given.
  
- (v) ₹ 10 crore will be allocated to provide infrastructure facilities like Laboratory, Internet connection facility, Mobile apps. Cloud service and research facilities.

**111.** Government of Puducherry has proposed to enact an Act *i.e.* the Puducherry Ease of Doing Business (Service Delivery) Act, 2020 to provide time bound clearances to industrial and service establishment and create an investment friendly environment for the interested entrepreneurs. The enactment will help attract investments in the Union Territory of Puducherry.



**112.** A new license renewal scheme will be developed in Puducherry to create a friendly environment for doing business and to introduce simple procedures for renewing business and commercial licence automatically with a view to enhancing business prosperity. Under this scheme, licenses issued under the Shops and Establishments Act, Contract Employees Act, Factories Act, Weights and Measures Act, Interstate Migrant Labour Act, Industrial Law, Drugs manufacturing, Sales and Storage licenses and licenses covered under laws administered by local bodies will be automatically renewed. No one will be required to go to any office for this purpose. Licence fee can be paid personally or through Demand Draft by registered post or through online. By way of this, inspections for renewal of licences are avoided. Order will be issued to the effect that no inspection is required to renew licences under Equal Wages Act, Minimum Wages Act, Shops and Establishment Act, Bonus Act, Contract Labour Act, Gratuity Act, Industrials Boilers Act, Prevention of Water Pollution Act, Weight

and Measures Act. This will eliminate the burden of industrial establishments and unnecessary hassles to industry and business.

**113.** In order to improve the economy of the Puducherry Union Territory, Hon'ble Ministers and I have met several times bank officials and taken a number of steps to provide credit facility to small and micro business. 10,942 eligible business establishment have been selected in collaboration with Bankers for grant of loan under the Emergency Guarantee Loan Scheme for Business and small enterprises and the Sub-loan Scheme for Asset Loans for the advancement of small business people during disasters. In the first phase, 8,116 enterprises have been allocated ₹ 157 crore in this regard. Of this, about ₹ 101 crore has been disbursed to 3,451 business houses. This loan assistance has been provided within a month which is evidently an achievement. The Union Territory of Puducherry tops the list in providing loans to the beneficiaries as compared to other States in the country.

**114.** Steps are also being taken to implement a sub-loan scheme to reduce the burden of borrowers who have availed loan assistance by mortgaging property. The Director of Industries will be appointed as the Nodal Officer to facilitate ease of doing business. It is proposed to allocate ₹ 50.78 crore for this department in the current financial year.

## **LOCAL ADMINISTRATION**

**115.** My Government has decided to implement various solid waste management projects during this financial year. It has been planned to spend ₹ 16 crore this year for this purpose.

**116.** The Central Government has launched a new project called “Jal Jeevan Mission” to provide quality and adequate clean drinking water to all rural households through tap connection by 2024. The scheme will be implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry for three years from 2020-21 to 2023-24. There are 108 Grama Panchayats in 10 Commune Panchayats

in the Puducherry Union Territory. In these 10 Communes, there are 1,14,908 houses. As of 1-4-2020, water pipe connections to 99,993 households covering nearly 87%, have been provided. The pipe connections for the remaining houses will be provided by 2020-21 to achieve 100% target.

**117.** The Community Welfare Centre will be constructed for public use in the Vizhuthiyur area of Niravi-Thirumalairayanpattinam constituency in Karaikal in this financial year.

**118.** A scheme to provide food at affordable rates through mobile restaurants called “Amizhdham” will be implemented through the local bodies. This will be implemented in Puducherry, Uzhavarkarai and Karaikal Municipalities this year in the first phase.

**119.** It is proposed to convert all street lights in the Union Territory of Puducherry into LED lights. In the area falling under Puducherry and Uzhavarkarai Municipalities, this will be done under Smart City

project and in the areas of Karaikal and Yanam Municipalities, and Mannadipattu, Nettapakkam, Kottucherry, Nedungadu, Thirunallar, Niravi and Thirupattinam Commune Panchayats through the State Energy Conservation Fund. It has been proposed to change the street lights as LED lights in Villianur, Ariyankuppam, Bahour Commune Panchayats and in Mahe Municipal areas from out of its own funds.

## **SMART CITY**

**120.** The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the 'Smart City' project to transform 100 cities in the country into Smart City. Due to the sustained efforts of my Government and the tireless work of the officials, Puducherry was selected by the Central Government under the Smart City Plan. The Puducherry Smart City Development Corporation has already been launched in 2017 to implement this project. Details of the financial allocation for the project are as follows:

1. Central Government Grant ..	₹ 500 crore
2. State Government Share ..	₹ 500 crore
3. Funds from other Central .. Government Projects	₹ 118 crore
4. Funds through AFD Loans ..	₹ 200 crore
5. Funds through implemen- .. tation of NBCC schemes	₹ 210 crore
6. Public Private participation ..	₹ 300 crore
<b>Total</b> ..	<u>₹ 1,828 crore</u>

**121.** Proposals for Smart City plan have been collected from the concerned departments and the situation analysis, implementation report and detailed project report have been prepared. The current financial position of the Smart City Project as follows:

1. For the preparation of the .. ₹ 2 crore  
Smart City Project report
2. Funds received from Central .. ₹ 98 crore  
Government as first instalment

3. Funds received from Central .. ₹ 3 crore  
Government as second  
instalment
4. Government of Puducherry's .. ₹ 60 crore  
Share

<b>Total</b>	<b>.. ₹ 163 crore</b>
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**122.** ₹ 95.53 crore project for flood control will be implemented by the Public Works Department. Under this project, 11.09 Km. of flood water drain canals will be improved and 8 road culverts will be constructed / reconstructed. Its estimated cost would be ₹ 78 crore. Work order for ₹ 2.79 crore has been issued for the construction of underground bridge, over railway track. Tenders to the extent of ₹ 14 crore pertaining to the works *i.e.* Uppar Drain, Sidhankudi Link Canal, Lion Park drain, Balaji Nagar Link Canal, and Krishna Nagar Canal have been called for. A comprehensive project report has been approved and tenders are proposed to be called for soon for an amount of ₹ 61.21 crore for the

construction of underground bridges at Kundusalai Road Mettu Canal, Kundusalai, Ellaipillai Chavadi, Anna Nagar (Opposite to the Housing Board) and also the construction of PCC drainage in Ulanthai area.

**123.** A comprehensive project report has been approved for a sum of ₹ 17.93 crore for development of Papammal Kovil drain, Chinnavaikkal drain, Gundusalai drain, Thiruvalluvar Nagar drain, Solaithandavankuppam North U drain, Vanarapettai drain in addition to the small U drains in Muthiyalpet, Nellithope and Villianur areas for a total length of 12.29 km. Tenders will be called for the above said projects shortly through Pondicherry Municipality and Smart City Development Corporation.

**124.** Public Health projects for a sum of ₹ 2.75 crore are proposed to be executed under Smart City Plan. Through this project, 44 toilets at a cost of ₹ 88 lakh will be constructed in the assembly constituencie of Uppalam, Rajbhavan,



Muthiyalpet and Orleanpet. Work order has been given for construction of 10 Modular toilets under this project. Work order for ₹ 41 lakh has been issued to construct 5 mobile toilets. Tenders have been finalised to upgrade 24 toilets at a cost of ₹ 69 lakh. Tenders are to be called for soon for renovation of 5 toilets at a cost of ₹ 77 lakh.

**125.** Puducherry Smart City Development Corporation and Pondicherry Slum clearance Board have jointly proposed to construct new houses in Chinnayapuram, Thideer Nagar, and Kumaragurupallam falling under the Orleanpet and Rajbhavan constituencies. In the first phase, 230 houses in six blocks have been proposed at Chinnayapuram at a cost of ₹ 17.16 crore and approval has been given for the detailed project report.

**126.** The renowned Anna Thidal in Puducherry Town will be converted into a mini-playground at a cost of ₹ 12.19 crore. Facilities for playing Volley ball, Badminton, Multipurpose ground, Visitors Gallery,

Children's play area, open-air-Gym, dressing rooms, shops and parking area will be provided. With the approval having been given already for this project, tenders will be called for shortly. Further, the prestigious Calve college which is a symbol of French Culture will be renovated at a cost of ₹ 4.39 crore without changing its traditional architectural design. Similarly V.O.C. Higher Secondary School and Panshanet School will be renovated at a cost of ₹ 5.85 crore and ₹ 5.51 crore respectively.

**127.** The southern part of the Puducherry Beach between old port and new Lighthouse will be widened and beautified at a cost of ₹ 4.06 crore. Approval has been given for this project report. Similarly, the northern side of the beach from old Distillery road to Solai Nagar will be beautified at a cost of ₹ 3.23 crore. In order to develop water resources, Ammankulam Tank at Villianur, Purakulam at Thamizhthai Nagar in Uppalam and Marappalam Kulam in Mudaliarpattinam will be reconstructed and rejuvenated at a cost of

₹ 1.29 crore. Approval for project report for these works will be given and tenders called for early. Bharathi Park in Rajbhavan Constituency and the “Boulder Falls” (Paarai Neeruttru) before the Chief Secretariat will also be renovated at a cost of ₹ 42 lakh.

**128.** In order to promote pollution free transport, public bicycle sharing scheme will be implemented at 43 locations. Initially, this project will be implemented at 19 locations falling under the Assembly constituency *viz.*, Raj Bhavan, Muthialpet, Thattanchavadi, Indra Nagar, Uppalam, Uzhavarkarai, Orleanpet, Nellithope, Ariyankuppam and Kamaraj Nagar.

**129.** In order to meet the increasing demand for parking areas, approval has been accorded for the preliminary project report to construct Dormitory car parking facilities at a cost of ₹ 15 crore at 10 places *viz.*, Old Jail Campus, Old Port, Richmond Street, (near Beach), Nehru Street-Ambur Salai Junction, Ambur Salai-Rangapillai Street Junction, Railway Station,

empty space opposite to Botanical Park, A.F.T. Ground, Avvai Thidal and Manimegalai School areas. The natural beautification of the road is proposed to be implemented at a cost of ₹ 1.68 crore on the 6 Km. stretch from Shivaji Statue to Marapalam Junction. Fibre Optic Cable projects will be implemented within Smart City limits in the name of “Pondy Fiber Optic Cable Projects”.

**130.** The electrical infrastructure works contemplated under the Smart City Mission Project will be executed at a cost of ₹ 30 crore. The work involves erection of 25 compact substations in 11 locations all along the Grand Canal in Puducherry town area, bifurcation and conversion of HT feeders near Vanarpet feeder, Nethaji Nagar feeder and Rajnivas feeder together with installation of two nos. of HT feeder bay extension at Marapalam substation, and replacement of existing electrical overhead structure into plinth mounted structure all along the Petit canal in town area.

**131.** Various schemes to be executed under Smart City Project this year are as follows:

- (i) It is proposed to spend ₹ 11.795 crore for conversion of 11 KV oil transformers and power boxes into new technological electrical equipments and installation of underground cables in Grand Canal route. By implementing this project, power disruption occurring in overhead power lines by natural disasters will be completely avoided. Thus, sustainable power supply will be provided to the power consumers.
  
- (ii) 11 KV underground cable will be laid in Vambakeerapalayam, Vanarapettai, Dr. Ambedkar Salai, a part of Cuddlore Road and Thenkaiathittu areas. Further an amount of ₹ 9.60 crore is proposed to be spent to convert 22 KV overhead cables in Chinnavaikal (Petit Canal Street) into 11 KV underground cable.

- (iii) It has been proposed to convert the 11 KV electrical equipments, transformers, LT Boxes and its 22 KV overhead cables into 11 KV underground cables in Vambakeerapalayam, Vanarapet, DR. Ambedkar salai, part of Cuddalore road and Thengaitturu areas at a cost of ₹ 10.10 crore.
- (iv) The existing Air Insulation Substation in Marappalam was built 25 years ago and its efficiency has been completely exhausted. Hence, it is proposed to establish a 110/22 KV Gas Insulation substation at an estimate cost of ₹ 26.65 crore. This is an advanced technology and the new substation will provide sustained and quality power supply to consumers.
- (v) A Computerized Command and Management System (CCMS) will be implemented to convert the existing street lights into LED

bulbs, through an operation and maintenance contract. This scheme will cover Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipalities also which are included in the Area based Development scheme. This scheme will be implemented at a cost of ₹ 29.40 crore. This will enable saving of power and uninterrupted power supply to street lights. Street lights repairs will also be immediately attended under this CCMS.

- (vi) It is proposed to set up Solar electrical panels integrated with electrical infrastructure on all Government buildings and institutions with a capacity of 2 MW power, in the areas covered under Smart City Plan. The solar power producers under this method (RESCO) will be selected through inviting tenders. The selected bidders will invest the required money and install the solar electrical panels and maintain the same

for 25 years. Further, they will sell the solar power to the Government Departments and Government Institutions / Undertakings at the prescribed rates for 25 years.

**132.** The following important works have been proposed to be undertaken in this financial year. Upgrading of public toilets and construction of new toilets (₹ 2.10 crore); highlighting the name of the city (₹ 2.10 crore); building 230 new houses for the economically weaker sections (₹ 217.88 crore); transport management plan (₹ 73.50 crore); provision of roof solar power equipments (₹ 22.05 crore); GIS mapping facilities (₹ 3.15 crore); renovation and computerization of traditional educational institutions such as Calve College and V.O.C. School (₹ 5.25 crore); improvement of the primary canal (₹ 52.50 crore); electronic health data system (₹ 18.90 crore); municipal canal improvement (₹ 21 crore); two-way design and conversion of power transformers (₹ 36.96 crore).



**133.** Tourism development works to the extent of ₹ 8 crore will be carried out this year in the 34 acre “Pondy Marina” beach in the New Port area under the Smart City projects. As part of this, a Handicrafts park will be set up in an area of about five acres to showcase the artistic and cultural pride of the Puducherry Union Territory. These beach development works will be of great benefit to the local people.

**134.** Upgradation of nine main drains will be undertaken so as to avoid water logging during rainy season under the Smart City Plan. Construction of canals in Pallavaikal, Mettuvaikal, Ulanthai Upari Vaikal, Karuvadikuppam, Pavanar Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Vanavil Nagar, Uppar drain from Kamaraj Salai to Vannarapettai, three railway gate Culvert will be undertaken at an estimated cost of ₹ 62.03 crore.

## **POLICE**

**135.** I express my gratitude to the untiring service being rendered by the Police Department and all officers in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hon'ble members are aware that the law and order situation is well maintained in Puducherry Union Territory and the Union Territory remains peaceful. The Government has been providing the State police force with necessary manpower, modern equipment for discharging their duties effectively. Installation of CCTV cameras at vital locations has ensured better crime control and swift tracking of criminals. A consolidated proposal has been sent to Government of India for an amount of ₹ 50.75 crore for Safe City Project which consists of strengthening of Intelligence Wing and updating Surveillance (CCTV), control room upgradation (including PCR vehicles), branded worldwide reputed instrument for Anti-terror and bomb disposal measures, Automatic Traffic Management System, upgraded Training Methodology to police personnel and Project Management Consultancy. The construction work in respect of coastal police station at Mahe region and Dariyalhippa out post in Yanam region will be completed and will

be operational this year. In addition, construction of new building for Puducherry, Lawspet, Karikalampakkam and Reddiyapalayam police stations will be taken up this year. The post of sub-inspector of police will be upgraded as Inspector of Police in Reddiarpalayam Police range.

**136.** Further, it is proposed to replace all Walkie-talkie's with digital based VHF static / Head held repeater sets. Purchase of four wheelers and two wheelers against condemnation for an amount of ₹ 2.68 crore has also been proposed. To strengthen the police force, the proposed recruitment of 44 posts of sub-Inspector, 390 posts of Police Constables, 200 posts of Coastal Home Guards, 265 posts of Home Guards, 29 posts of Drivers and other technical posts which got delayed unavoidably due to administrative reasons will be completed early this year. An amount of ₹ 250.34 crore has been proposed to be allocated for Police Department.

## **PORT**

**137.** Hon'ble Members of the assembly are well aware that my Government is placing great emphasis on port development. About 1.20 lakh cubic meters of sand dredging work in the Ariyankuppam river front and, about 60,000 cubic meters on the Thengaithittu fishing harbor will be carried out this year. With the approval of the Union Ministry of Environment and the approval pertaining to Coastal Zone limits, tenders will be called for the dredging of 7.30 lakh cubic meters of sand under the "Sagar Mala" project and the works will be completed this year at an estimated cost of ₹ 33 crore. The Central Government has already released ₹ 18 crore for the project. Upon completion of this dredging work, 4 lakh tones of Exports and Imports will be handled annually at the Puducherry port. This will help expansion of the port developmental works.

**138.** In Thengaithittu Lagoon, desilting will be done under the "Pondy Necklace" project and, Port and Tourism improvement works will be carried out this year at an estimated cost of ₹ 1.23 crore.

**139.** The National Institute of Technology. Chennai has been requested to study and report on the feasibility of setting up a small port at the Pannithittu-Malattaru entrance lying 15 km. south of Puducherry.

**140.** A master plan will be introduced this year to carry out development works in coastal areas of Puducherry without affecting the environment under Marine Spatial Planning. The project will pave the way for implementing various developmental schemes by integrating the department of Port, Tourism, Fisheries, Town and Country Planning and Science and Technology. This development will be beneficial for the people residing in coastal areas.

**141.** It is proposed to renovate the old port in Puducherry without changing its traditional infrastructure at an estimated cost of about ₹ 20 crore. Works in this regard will begin this year.

**142.** In order to enable the people of Puducherry and tourists visiting Puducherry to travel along the beach with their vehicles, action will be taken this year (2020-21) to launch a ferry service for carrying passengers and vehicles through the Port Channel from the Pandy Marina beach in the Uppalam area to other beaches in the south of Puducherry, including Periya Veerampattinam.

**143.** Steps will be taken in this year to carry out infrastructure work at the new port complex in Puducherry, in order to make the port of Puducherry as the hub for construction and reconstruction of Vessels, Barges, Pleasure Boats/Yachts.

**144.** Work relating to laying of a new link road at an estimated cost of ₹ 3 crore to make it easier for local people and tourists to reach the “Pandy Marina” beach from Dr. Ambedkar statue near the entrance of the New Port.

**145.** Under the guidance of the Central Ministry of Shipping, studies are underway to operate a passenger and cargo ferry service between Kankesan Port

in the northern part of Sri Lanka and Karaikal. Action will be taken to start ferry services in this financial year itself. A high level committee has been formed to expedite the work.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

**146.** Infrastructure development is important for economic development of a State and it helps improve productivity and steer economic growth. My Government is giving due importance for creation of infrastructure both from State's own funds and through Negotiated Loan from Central Financial Institutions like NABARD, HUDCO, etc.

**147.** All red card holding families in the Union Territory of Puducherry are exempted from payment of water tax. As a result, the Government would stand to incur revenue loss of about ₹ 20 crore a year. To compensate this revenue loss, the water tax being levied from factories and large scale commercial enterprises for the ground water being extracted by

them through bore well will be increased. The tanks, river, lake etc. will be improved and its holding capacity increased with the resources collected through the enhanced tax.

**148** Presently, 28 major project works are in progress in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Under the water supply sector, 15 works in Puducherry to the tune of ₹ 143.36 crore, and 4 works in Karaikal region for an amount of ₹ 74.64 crore are in progress. In sewerage and sanitation sector, 4 works in Puducherry region for ₹ 11.40 crore are underway. There are 3 major building works in Puducherry as well as in Mahe for ₹ 20.16 crore in progress. Under roads and bridge sector, 2 works involving ₹ 16.19 crore are under progress in Mahe region.

**149.** The over bridge on the Puducherry, NH-45A at Arumparthapuram being constructed at a cost of ₹ 23.60 crore through Central Road Fund will be opened for public use in August 2020. Similarly, the



construction of High level bridge across Sankarabarani river at Thirukanchi for an amount ₹ 31.36 crore through NABARD loan will be completed expeditiously and will be thrown open for public use in August 2020.

**150.** The Kamarajar Manimandapam project being constructed at a cost of ₹ 23.60 crore is almost nearing completion. Almost 80% work has been completed and the remaining works will be completed before January 2021. The Uppanar Bridge construction work is expected to be completed in December 2020. Priority will be given to these works and they will be completed early.

**151.** The Government has issued G.O. for waiving of one-time deposit for the new under-ground sewage constructions for the domestic / residential purpose. PWD is preparing an action plan in coordination with Local Administration Department to complete sewage connection work within six months.

**152.** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) has proposed to sanction the following projects under Central Road Fund (CRF) for ₹ 40 crore during the current financial year. (i) 18.5 Km. RC 19 & RC 20 Maducarai Road (₹ 14 crore),(ii) 10 Km. RC 22 Sedarapet Road (₹ 15 crore),(iii) 5 Km. link road connecting NH66 and NH-45A (₹ 5 crore); and (iv) 5 Km. RC 16 Koodapakkam Road (₹ 6 crore).

**153.** Similarly, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) has proposed to allocate ₹ 130 crore for extension of Puducherry-Villupuram NH45A under National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) scheme in the current year Annual Plan 2020-21. The Scheme also includes construction of a new High Level Bridge across the river Sankarabarani at Ariyapalayam in NH45A.

**154.** The works relating to ongoing overhead water tank projects viz. OHT at Sudhana Nagar, JJ Nagar, Raghavendra Nagar, Kompakkam, Swadeshi Bharati

Textile Mill Campus, Angalamman Nagar, TB Sanatorium, Thondamantham and Ariyur, Anandhapuram will be completed by August 2020.

**155.** Mahe region has been experiencing shortage of drinking water during summer. The Anjarakandi drinking water project is not sufficient for meeting the demands of the existing population. Therefore, work will begin immediately to acquire about 10 acres of private land so as to collect rainwater and purify it, for meeting the drinking water needs of the Mahe region.

**156.** In Mahe, 90% of the Bulwar Road and Soodikotta Road works have been completed at an estimated cost of ₹ 3.50 crore with the loan assistance from NABARD. This work will be completed soon. Also road works pertaining to Kallai – Pandakkal, Pallur-Pandakkal Mulakkadavu junction. Paral – Sokkili, Sokkili – Perunkadi, I.K. Kumaran Main road, Semathiri Road, Thayangadi Road and Beach Road will be carried out with loan assistance of NABARD at an

estimated cost of ₹ 4.01 crore and completed within this financial year. Improvement works to the Madapidika – Pookam road, TV Relay Station Road, Government Hostel Road will be undertaken for an amount of ₹ 47 lakh. The works will be completed in this financial year.

**157.** New Bridge across Piravadayanar River in Karaikal; improvement of Thirunallar – Ambakarathur Road; integrated Judicial Complex; construction of 5 MLD river water treatment plant in Arasalar; and a overhead Water Tank for Mela Ponbethi in Nedunkadu Commune Panchayat have been completed at a cost of ₹ 46.88 crore. They will be made available for public use during in this financial year.

**158.** In addition, works relating to construction of Western Bypass Road from Keezhakasakudi to Kalayam Katti bridge in Karaikal region; Improvement to the road from Thirunallar Road Junction to State border in Annavasal Village in Nedungau Commune and, to

the road from Karaikal Medu to Thiruvettakudi near Arasalaru Bridge; Serumavilankai Village, Ambakarathur, and Nallambal areas in Thirunallar; overhead tank works in Sakthi Nagar, Keezhakasakudi area with a capacity of 12,00,000 liters and other works are being carried out at a cost of ₹ 70.23 crore.

**159.** Further, improvements to Karaikal – Thirunallar Road (including Nallur River Road); Niravi-I and Niravi-II Roads, Villuthiyur Road, Tittacherry Road (up to Aaiyarankali Amman Kovil entrance); and Thirunallar – Nallathur Road; construction of sluice across Thirumalairayan River; construction of bridge in Athipadugai across Arasalar; improvement of the four main streets in Thirunallar and underground drainage work in Thirunallar temple town are proposed to be undertaken at a cost of ₹ 41.35 crore in this financial year.

**160** With the loan assistance of ₹ 3.50 crore from HUDCO, 34 drinking water purification plants will be set up in various parts of Puducherry and

opened for public use within this financial year. It is proposed to allocate ₹ 519.14 crore to the department in the current financial year. Voucher paid workers working in the department will be given double the rates of their existing wages.

## **REVENUE**

**161.** The Hon'ble members are well aware that the department of Revenue and Disaster Management has been doing commendable service in this critical situation due to the deadly Corona Virus. I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the revenue personal involved in controlling the virus spread under the Disaster Management Act. 2005.

**162.** With the financial assistance form National Disaster Management Authority, the implementation of the "Sendai Frame Work for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)" scheme which aims to achieve substantial

reduction of disaster risk and loss of lives and economic, social environmental assets of persons, business communities etc. will be taken up in the Union Territory of Puducherry and, a comprehensive programme guidelines will be prepared accordingly.

**163.** Individual patta has been issued to 483 beneficiaries. 97 eligible landless poor were identified and issued free house site pattas in Karaikal District under the Land Grant Rules, 1975. All the pattas issued under the Land Grant Rules (LGR) will be digitized and uploaded in the official website for public view this year. Revenue department vacancies such as Deputy Tahsildar, Village Administrative Officer and Surveyor post will be shortly filled.

**164.** Landless rural labourers will be provided with free housing plots through Revenue Department and Survey and Land Records. Further, no-objection certificates will be issued by the Department of Hindu Religious Institutions to those who are residing

in thatched houses in the temple lands, for the construction of concrete houses under the Central and State Government housing schemes.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

**165.** It has been proposed to establish Space Exposition Centre and Innovation Hub integrating the works pertaining to setting up of a Planetarium announced earlier at Thirunallar Temple Town, Karaikal at an estimated cost of ₹ 3.75 crore. Five acres of land has been identified as per the direction of Government of India, for increasing basic infrastructure facilities. The construction works will be taken up this year.

**166.** Under the Integrated Coastal Area Development Programme of the Central Government, a master plan on coastal development at an estimated cost of ₹ 8 crore will be prepared. Fish auction halls for Puducherry fishermen villages viz. Chinnakalapattu,



Pillaichavadi, Pudukkuppam and Panithittu will be constructed and fisheries repair shed to do mending work will also be set up at the cost of ₹ 4 crore. Open Sea Cage Culture project will be implemented at a cost of ₹ 2.42 crore to improve the livelihood of fishermen. A comprehensive project at cost of ₹ 2 crore will be implemented to improve the livelihood of fishing women in Puducherry. Sea park will be set up by upgrading the beach areas of Manapattu and Panithittu.

**167.** Further, “Pondy Necklace” Tourism Project at a cost of ₹ 18.3 will be established at Thengaithittu seashore area for the welfare of local people. A scheme to protect the sand dunes in the coastal areas will be implemented at a cost of ₹ 1.72 crore. Swamp forests in coastal villages will be protected at a cost of ₹ 8.08 crore. Sewage treatment project in Puducherry will be implemented at a cost of ₹ 25 crore. In order to execute the above, Special Project Management Agency will be set up in the Department of Science, Technology and Environment.

## **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**

**168.** With a view to providing houses to all eligible families, the existing construction of 3,000 houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Scheme, will be completed and approval for construction of another 3,000 houses will be obtained from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. In addition, my Government will take all necessary steps to get the approval from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for reconstruction of dilapidated buildings constructed earlier under various erstwhile State / Central schemes, under PMAY scheme.

**169.** As the measures taken by Government to regularize the unapproved plots were widely appreciated, similar action will be taken to regularize the unauthorized buildings also this year. The detailed Development plan for the growth centres will be identified in the Comprehensive Development plan 2036 will be prepared and notified. New Master Plan for Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam will be prepared based on GIS. Town

and Country Development Rules will be revised and the buildings already constructed will be regulated accordingly. ₹ 4 crore for each plan mentioned below will be spent at a total cost of ₹ 8 crore.

(i) Slum Upgradation Programme.

(ii) Capital Development Project.

## **TOURISM**

**170.** As the Hon'ble Members are already aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the tourism industry in our Union Territory. Due to the complete lockdown and restrictions in movement for the last two months, the arrival of tourists from various parts of the country has become almost NIL. However, with the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions, the Tourism sector is expected to pick up gradually in the following months.

**171.** Despite sluggish tourist arrival, regular entertainment events and, events during festival season such as adventure sports, beach festival, etc. will

also be organized in this year for promotion of tourism. The Spiritual Park at Thirunallar, Karaikal will be completed this year. Renovation work at the Government Tourist Home at Kovilpathu, Karaikal will be taken up and additional rooms constructed for the benefit of pilgrims this year. The development of Recreational Park around Yanam Tower will be completed and the Phase – II of the work will also be taken up subsequently. Action will be taken to operate boat house in River Mayyazhi, Mahe. The development of Yacht Marina in Puducherry and development of entertainment zone in Manapet will be taken up under the technical expertise of NITI Aayog.

**172.** New developmental works such as setting up wooden huts on the beach, widening the Pondy Marina Beach Road upto its entrance, boat service between the Pondy Marina and Veerampattinam Ruby Beach, construction of tourist spot at the old port, and widening of the pedestrian walkway on Nehru street, Puducherry have been planned to be undertaken this year. The Pondy Necklace tourist

scheme comprising the lagoons at Veerampattinam, Ariyankuppam, Murungapakkam and Thengaitthitu is proposed to be implemented at a cost of ₹ 18.50 crore in coordination with the Department of Science, Technology and Environment.

## **TRANSPORT**

**173.** I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that a new scheme has been framed under section 135 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and a team consisting of officials from Transport, Traffic Police and Public Works Departments will be formed for an in-depth study and analysis about the cause of motor vehicle accidents. Based on the recommendations, appropriate follow up action will be taken to reduce the accidents in future.

**174.** Junction improvements, relocation of bus stops etc. will be carried out in order to ensure smooth traffic flow. Online facility for payment of tax will be introduced from this year. PRTC direct bus services

from Puducherry to the pilgrim places like Palani, Thiruchendur and Rameshwaram will be operated. An amount of ₹ 18 crore has been proposed to be allocated to PRTC this year.

### **ADI DRAVIDAR AND SCHEDULED TRIBES WELFARE**

**175.** Since economic development alone does not guarantee fair and balanced growth of all sections of the society, my Government ensures equitable development for all especially the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes of this Union Territory. A sum of ₹ 348 crore has been proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) this year.

**176.** My Government will implement a new scheme *viz.*, Dr. Ambedkar Social Justice Protection Scheme in order to ensure the economic and social development of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. The main features of this scheme are as follows:

- (i) Under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme (PMAY), the Scheduled Caste community is currently given ₹ 4 lakh including

₹ 1.50 lakh from the Central Government for building house. I would like to inform the Hon'ble members of this august House that this will be increased by ₹ 1 lakh in the current financial year and a total amount of ₹ 5 lakh will be given.

- (ii) Schedule Caste farmers who cultivate paddy, manila, sesame, sugarcane, cotton, millets, pulses and fodder crops, will be given an increase of ₹ 1,000 per acre in subsidy, in addition to the subsidy announced by the Department of Agriculture.
- (iii) Subsidy will be increased by 25% for Scheduled Caste farmers who buy milch cows.
- (iv) Scheduled Caste students studying in private schools in Puducherry will be provided free Tablet under the School Education Department's new scheme.

- (v) 3% interest subvention will be given by the Government on loans taken by Scheduled Caste women for animal husbandry, agriculture, fisheries and other related loans. This scheme will be of great help to Scheduled Caste women.
- (vi) ₹ 75,000 is currently being provided as financial assistance for marriage to Scheduled Caste community. This will be increased to ₹ 1 lakh.
- (vii) Model villages comprising Scheduled Caste people who are self-sufficient in development, education and employment will be established in this financial year.
- (viii) Residential school will be started for the benefit of Scheduled Caste students for which ₹ 5 crore will be allocated.

## **BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES WELFARE**

**177.** My Government has been implementing various welfare schemes for providing education, economic and social upliftment of the backward classes and



minorities. Hostel facilities are provided to the backward classes and minorities student community, besides grant of scholarship. Micro finance facility and educational loan are given to backward classes community members through Puducherry Backward Classes and Minorities Development Corporation by availing loan from National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC). Kits to poor artisans are also distributed. All the same benefits are made available to the minority community also. My Government has allocated ₹ 5 crore this year as financial assistance to Backward Classes Corporation in order to enable the Corporation to settle the outstanding dues to NBCFDC as the former has been finding it difficult to repay the loan taken from NBCFDC due to poor recovery of loan from beneficiaries. A Residential School is proposed for backward class rural students for which ₹ 5 crore is proposed to be allocated.

**178.** ₹ 25,79,000 was distributed last year under the scholarship scheme to 1,205 Islamic students from Puducherry. This amount will be doubled this

year. The family income of ₹ 60,000 prescribed for getting this benefit will be increased to ₹ 2 lakh to get this scholarship. This will benefit more students.

**179.** 40 mosques in the Puducherry and Karaikal regions were given ₹ 30,000 each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for a total sum of ₹ 12 lakh during the holy month of Ramalan. Action will be taken to convert it as a Government scheme this year. A total amount of ₹ 13.44 lakh was provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for 84 pilgrims who undertook the HAJ pilgrimage last year @ ₹ 16,000 each. Action will be taken to convert this as a Government scheme.

**180.** As large number of Wakf properties are in Karaikal region, efforts are being made to set up a branch of the Wakf Board in Karaikal with the financial assistance from the Ministry of Minorities Affairs to manage the said properties.

## **SOCIAL WELFARE**

**181.** I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members of this House that my Government is committed to the continuous implementation of various existing welfare schemes to differently abled persons, orphan children, aged persons, poor artisans, etc. so as to ensure their well-being. This Government continues to provide monthly pension to differently abled persons, despite resource constrains. It has been proposed to allocate ₹ 51 crore in order to distribute pension to 20,951 disabled persons for twelve months in the year.

**182.** A Day Care-*cum*-Recreation Centre is proposed to be established in Villianur for senior citizens in this financial year, similar to the ones already functioning at Ariyankuppam and Karaikal.

## **WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**183.** My Government is always committed to paying special attention to the welfare of women and children. I take this opportunity to assure the Hon'ble members

that my Government will continue to implement the welfare schemes such as pre-natal / post-natal benefits, supplementary nutrition to women as well as children, Old Age Pension to destitute widows, persons of old age, unmarried women, despite resource constraints. The Government is spending around ₹ 360 crore per year for old age pension alone. Around 1,50,000 persons are benefitted every month through this scheme. Old Age Pension to 10,000 more beneficiaries will be given in this financial year.

**184.** Hemoglobin meters will be procured and supplied to Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and General Hospitals in order to monitor the anemic status of pregnant / lactating women, children and adolescent girls. Under POSHAN Abiyan (National Nutrition Mission), Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities and Jan Andolan (People's Movement) emphasizing the importance of nutrition to pregnant / lactating women, children and adolescent girls were carried out.

To improve the health and hygiene among adolescent girls, sanitary napkin incinerators will be procured and installed in Government girls' schools and colleges this year.

**185.** Under the "One Stop Centre" Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Government is providing integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence of any kind. In Puducherry, at present One stop center is functioning in a separate ward in Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital. A separate building for the One Stop Centre, has been constructed in Venkateswara Nagar, Saram.

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**186.** The District Rural Development Agency is carrying out various programs to reduce poverty and increase employment opportunities. Moreover, my Government is taking various measures for sustained livelihood of the rural people. Special attention is

being paid to restore the livelihood and to create new opportunities for the poor people who have been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**187.** To double the income of the rural poor in the year 2020-2021, a new project called “Thanthai Periyar Rural Women Renaissance Project” will be implemented. This will be implemented at a cost of ₹ 100 crore through the Government of Puducherry, Central Government and Banks for the self-help groups registered with the Rural Development Agency. The details are as follows:

- (i) Assistance will be provided to 7,000 beneficiaries to purchase cows and calves and for setting up animal feed production units and dairies by agricultural women. The scheme will be implemented in 86 panchayats in the Union Territory of Puducherry. ₹ 31.33 crore will be spent for this project.

- (ii) About 3,000 women farmers will be benefitted by promotion of vegetable cultivation, millet production, and setting up of agro-based industries, and encouraging the establishments run by self-help groups. Industries relating to paddy, pulses and cotton processing will be established through women. The scheme will be implemented in 35 panchayats with loan assistance of ₹ 26 crore from banks.
  
- (iii) With the assistance from World Bank to be released through Science, Technology and Environment, 2,000 fisherwomen will be benefitted. This scheme is being implemented in 18 villages. Sale of fishes in a hygienic atmosphere, setting up of solar power stations for high quality drying of fishes, coastal shells ornaments, fish huts, value added products made out of coconut fibre, chicken and kadai farming, encouraging production of millets and

vegetable cultivation will be given special attention. It is proposed to allocate ₹ 2.60 crore for this purpose.

- (iv) Start-up assistance of ₹ 2.50 crore to 500 production groups and 4 federation of production groups. In order to establish income generating production units, necessary financial assistance through banks will be arranged. The existing capacity of the units producing face masks, sanitizer and soaps will be increased. New ready-made garments manufacturing units will be established. Separate units will be created for procurement of organic items such as food grains, honey, millets and pulses. All these proposals will be implemented through women agricultural production groups.
- (v) The Women members of the self-help groups sponsored by DRDA are given special consumer loan of ₹ 10,000 each



at low interest rate. This involves an estimated expenditure of ₹ 34 crore. 3% interest subsidy will be given in order to mitigate the hardship of rural poor. There is no doubt that about 37,000 rural poor families will overcome their economic distress and get benefitted through this scheme.

- (vi) Capacity building training programmes will be conducted on the subjects relating to health, information technology, banking, insurance, tourism and hospitality, electrical and electronics. etc. to 1,100 rural youths in 2020-21 and employment opportunities will be ensured. An amount of ₹ 7.92 crore will be allotted. ₹ 72,000 will be spent for each selected person averagely.
- (vii) Three Rural Livelihood Centres each one at Karaikal, Villianur and Ariyankuppam will be setup. Machineries required for doing

business by women entrepreneurs will be installed and they will be permitted to use the machineries at a lower rates / fees. This will help the rural women who intend to start business, to reduce their capital expenditure so as to encourage them in doing business.

- (viii) Skill development training and employment will be provided to 745 youths in the coastal districts of Puducherry and Karaikal in Green Works Supervisor, Freight Booking Supervisor etc. at a cost of ₹ 5.36 crore.
- (ix) Special attention will be given to provide Vulnerable Redemption Fund to BPL families headed by women members, and living in COVID-19 pandemic affected areas. A sum of ₹ 1.62 crore will be provided to 108 panchayath level federations for distribution at the rate of ₹ 1.50 lakh per panchayat level federation.

**188.** The Government of India has approved laying of rural roads to the extent of 100 Km. in the Union Territory of Puducherry. In the next phase, 400 Km. rural roads are to be laid for linking agricultural markets, schools, hospitals in rural areas under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Necessary action is being taken through DRDA to implement this project through GIS technology.

**189.** To effectively manage liquid wastes, our Government has launched Swach Bharath Mission Phase-II from April this year. Under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, about 20,000 rural workers were provided employment to ensure their livelihood during the corona period. Steps have been taken to provide loans to the extent of ₹ 50,000 through banks to women self-help groups in the Puducherry region with interest subsidy to start small business. An amount of ₹ 54.14 crore has been proposed to be allocated to this department.

## **PLANNING AND RESEARCH**

**190.** The Government departments as well as Government undertakings / institutions are implementing various welfare schemes for the benefit of the people of the Union Territory of Puducherry. The Government has the responsibility of disseminating all the relevant information of various schemes like the object of the scheme, benefit of the scheme, eligibility to get the benefit etc. Therefore, a “People Handbook” comprising the details of all the schemes being implemented by the Government of Puducherry will be published by Planning and Research Department in coordination with all the departments. In continuation to this, “Help Centres” will be established in the Union Territory of Puducherry in order to clear any doubts on the Government schemes. These centres will function 24 hours. The people can obtain the details of Government schemes and also the procedure for applying for the same through these “Help Centres”.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS**

**191.** My Government is taking steps to pass an Act called “Public Services Delivery Act” similar to the Right to Information Act so as to ensure delivery of Government services within the stipulated time in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The vacant posts in Government departments will be filled through direct recruitment and by promotion within four months by taking immediate necessary action in this regard. Action will be taken this year to pay outstanding salaries due to the employees working in Public Sector Undertakings, Co-operative institutions and other departments.

## **CONCLUSION**

**192.** Concludingly, I would like to place on record that my Government has been quite successful in managing the Union Territory’s finances prudently and efficiently all these years which has obviously been appreciated by the Government of India also.

Unfortunately, the unprecedented outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has caused considerable damage to the economic structure and the Union Territory faces the daunting task of stepping up economic growth and to create more jobs and reduce poverty. This budget makes an attempt to address these issues effectively so as to ensure the well being of the people without compromising on fiscal prudence and fiscal consolidation. Keeping this in view, I have announced many people welfare schemes in this budget.

**193.** Upgrading infrastructure in health and education sector to ensure universal coverage with access to high quality services will continue to be the priority of my Government. I have allocated large sum for development of road infrastructure this year. In addition, my Government is paying special attention to urban infrastructure development through SMART city projects. Power, water supply, irrigation sectors have also been given due importance in this budget. As I have already stated in my opening remarks, my Government

will leave no stone unturned to make the Union Territory of Puducherry free from COVID-19 pandemic soon with the active support of the people of this Union Territory.

**194.** Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with this presentation, I commend the Budget for year 2020-21 before this House, in the middle of various administrative hardship, and solicit the support of the Hon'ble Members in this regard.

**VAZHGA ! BHARATHAM !**

**VELGA ! PUDUCHERRY !**

**NANDRI ! VANAKKAM !!**

# கொரோனா

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