



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

BUDGET SPEECH

2019 - 2020

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



28th August, 2019

BUDGET SPEECH

2019 - 2020

குடிதழீஇக் கோலோச்சம் மாநில மன்னன்
அடிதழீஇ நிற்கும் உலகு. (குறள்- 544)

People will constantly embrace the footprint of
the great king who Rules over his subjects with
love.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Vanakkam !

I rise to present the Budget of my Government for
the year 2019-20. This is the fourth successive budget
presented by me in this House.

2. Hon'ble Members are being supplied copies of
Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and
Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2019-20.

3. We earnestly start this Budget session with all
your co-operation and renewed commitment towards
taking the Union Territory of Puducherry to new heights of
governance and growth.

4. At the outset, we wish to wholeheartedly appreciate the wisdom of people of Union Territory of Puducherry for having voted for stability, and development keeping the issues being faced by this Union Territory in view, by selecting the most appropriate and deserving person to be the Member of Lok Sabha from Puducherry Parliamentary Constituency during the recent General Elections to Lok Sabha. We express our gratitude to the people of Puducherry on this occasion.

5. With the blessings of the President of All India Congress Smt. Sonia Gandhi and with the constant guidance of our beloved young leader Shri Rahul Gandhi and with blessings of Muthamizh Viththagar Dr. Kalaighnar and the active support of Thiru M. K. Stalin, President of DMK Party and other political alliance leaders, this budget has been prepared with a view to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Puducherry.

6. To begin with, I wish to share with the Hon'ble Members that in the recently convened NITI Aayog meeting on 15th June 2019, at New Delhi. I raised certain important issues concerning the Union Territory of Puducherry, and

I urged the august forum to give due consideration to the following outstanding demands of this Union Territory so as to augment financial resources of this Union Territory.

- (i) Statehood for Puducherry Union Territory;
- (ii) Inclusion of Puducherry under the ambit of Central Finance Commission for more devolution of funds;
- (iii) Waiver of legacy loans to the tune of ₹ 2,177 crore availed prior to opening of separate Public Account of Puducherry in 2007;
- (iv) Pending releases towards gap grant, electricity tariff compensation, 'Thane Cyclone' relief 2012-13 and rain relief 2015-16;
- (v) Central assistance for payment of pension to the pensioners of Government of Puducherry on par with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi;
- (vi) Funding pattern of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in the Union Territory of Puducherry must be in the ratio of 90:10 instead of the 60:40 ratio, as is given to other Union Territories;

- (vii) At least 10% annual increase in Central Assistance being given to the Union Territory of Puducherry.

7. The above demands were already focussed by me and Hon'ble Ministers at various forums on several occasions and I hope that Government of India would be gracious enough to consider our above demands favourably.

8. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that I held extensive pre-budget meetings with all political representatives and departmental officers and the valuable suggestions offered during these meetings have been given due regard to the possible extent while preparing the budget 2019-20. I have made provisions for giving some relief to Public Sector Undertakings / Autonomous bodies to settle the unpaid salary / gratuity to its employees without compromising on the on-going welfare schemes. I firmly believe that this budget would satisfy all sections of the people.

9. The total budget outlay as approved by the State Planning Board for the year 2019-20 is ₹ 8,425 crore. The Union Territory's own resources for the current year is estimated as ₹ 5,435 crore (65%) and the Central Assistance from Government of India including Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) will be ₹ 1,890 crore (22%).

The remaining ₹ 1,100 crore (13%) will 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, loan and interest payments. Out of the budget estimate of ₹ 8,425 crore for the year 2019-20, ₹ 1,896 crore is allocated for salaries (22%), ₹ 930 crore for pensions (11%) and ₹ 1,550 crore for debt servicing (18%) *i.e.* repayment of loan and payment of interest, and ₹ 1,250 crore for power purchase (15%). Other major expenditure of the Government includes Old Age Pension and other welfare schemes to the tune of ₹ 573 crore (7%), Grant-in-aid to Public Sector Undertakings and Co-operative Institutions to the extent of ₹ 889 crore (11%).

11. I wish to share with the Hon'ble Members that the Union Territory of Puducherry is required to repay ₹ 500 crore of Open Market Borrowing in December 2019 which was availed in the year 2009-10. 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 2018-19 was ₹ 7,416.19 crore which is 94.10% of the Revised Estimate 2018-19. As the funds under some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes were received at the fag-end of the financial year *i.e.* in March 2019 from Government of India, the expenditure under CSS was little less *i.e.* 65.45%. However, since the CSS funds are permitted to be carried over to the subsequent financial year, the Government will take all necessary steps to utilise the unspent balance fully this year.

13. I am happy to apprise this august House that the Government of India has acknowledged that the Government of Puducherry is managing its financial affairs prudently. My Government continues to maintain the vital fiscal indicators within the prescribed limit so that the Union Territory remains financially stable. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country is 6.7% whereas the GSDP of Union Territory of Puducherry is 11% and this evidently shows that the Union Territory of Puducherry is progressing well for which I am indebted to express my gratitude for all. With your active support, my government will strive hard for the betterment of Puducherry Union Territory. With this introduction, I would like to make department-wise presentation as follows:

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

14. Around 50% of the population of the Union Territory of Puducherry depends on agriculture and it contributes about 7% of the GSDP. Therefore, concerted efforts are being taken to increase agricultural productivity. My Government is firmly committed to increase the investment in agriculture and has initiated a number of steps to encourage agriculture by providing adequate power, processing and monitoring facilities, technology and credit to farmers.

15. I am extremely happy in announcing several subsidy schemes to the farmers. Under the scheme "Crop Production Technology", subsidy @ ₹ 5,000 per acre each for Kuruvai / Sornavari & ₹ 5,000 per acre for Samba / Thalady seasons totalling to ₹ 10,000 per acre will be given to the farmers. An amount of ₹ 16.15 crore will be additionally required for this purpose.

16. I have proposed to motivate the farmers to go in for cultivation of millets and pulses *in lieu of* paddy crops during Navarai season, for which subsidy for cultivation expenses at ₹ 5,000 per acre for millets and ₹ 2,000 per acre for pulses is proposed to be given. This will involve an additional expenditure of ₹ 76.72 lakh.

17. Similarly, production incentive @ ₹ 10,000 per acre will be given to farmers cultivating sugarcane, and cotton crop. An additional amount of ₹ 4.18 crore will be spent for this purpose. An amount of ₹ 5,000 per acre will be paid to the farmers cultivating vegetables, banana and other fruit crops, in addition to the back-ended subsidy being extended under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme subject to a minimum of ₹ 10,000 per acre involving an additional expenditure of ₹ 1.26 crore per annum.

18. For farmers cultivating oilseed crops such as groundnut and gingelly subsidy for cultivation expenses to the tune of ₹ 2,000 per acre will be given. In order to encourage coconut cultivation, subsidy of ₹ 3,000 will be given. An amount of ₹ 1.50 crore will be spent for this purpose. As already announced, back ended investment subsidy for fodder crop will be enhanced from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 8,000 per acre from this year. Necessary administrative action is being taken in this regard.

19. 100% subsidy to the tune of ₹ 1.75 lakh per hectare is proposed to be extended to the farmers for setting up of Micro-irrigation structure / fertigation structures so as to enable the farmers produce quality agricultural

produce by increased water Use Efficiency and Fertiliser Use Efficiency by adopting precision farming. It is proposed to cover an area of 100 hectare (240 acres) of cultivable lands under Precision Farming in the first phase during the current financial year.

20. A new scheme, namely “Financial Assistance to Farmer Producer Companies”, will be implemented under which it is proposed to provide one time financial assistance of ₹ 10 lakh per eligible Farmer Producer Company to ten eligible companies, in order to make them vibrant, sustainable and self governing bodies. This amount may be utilised as seed money for the successful implementation of its business plan.

21. Special attention will be given to large scale adoption of improved agricultural technologies among the farmers through On-campus and Off-campus training through exposure visits to the Agricultural Universities / Agricultural Research Stations. It is proposed to impart training in New Agriculture Technology for 200 farmers including women in various Central Agricultural Technology Research Institutions this year, such as: (i) Indian Horticulture Research Institute,

Karnataka; (ii) Indian Fragrance Products Research Institute, Kerala; (iii) National Botanical Hygiene Management Institute, Hyderabad; (iv) Forest Genetic and Tree Development Institution, Coimbatore; (v) Central Food Technology Research Institute, Karnataka; and (vi) National Agriculture Zonal Centre, Karnataka. Necessary followup action will be taken to arrange for bank loan ranging from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 5,00,000 to the farmers for agricultural activities.

22. My Government is keen on water management, and as a part of this task, it is proposed to provide 100% subsidy for establishment of farm ponds in an area of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre for the small and marginal farmers in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions for conservation of ground water in the farmers' fields.

23. In pursuance of the convening of the special session of the Legislative Assembly for discussion on Water Managment, necessary followup action is being taken by way of rain harvesting desilting of lakes and ponds, maintenance of water bodies etc. 84 ponds have been desilted in Karaikal region. Works in 29 ponds are in progress. In Puducherry region desilting works in 32 lakes and ponds is underway. For rejuvenation of water bodies, ₹ 50 lakh will be spent through DRDA.

24. To encourage the farmers in organic farming, materials to the farmers for the preparation of organic inputs like Panchakaviya, Amirthakaraisal, five leaf extract etc., will be disbursed at 75% subsidy. Further, in order to increase the farmers income through value addition of agricultural produce, post harvest technology equipments viz., Huller, decorticator, Thrasher, Wooden Chekku for oil extraction etc., will be supplied at 50% subsidy subject to the maximum of ₹ 20,000.

25. Taking into consideration the high demand for green fodder in our Union Territory of Puducherry and to ensure supply of fodder throughout the year, the scheme for building silos or distributing silage bags to the farmers at 100% subsidy will be introduced as a new scheme during this year on pilot basis. The required financial assistance for the scheme will be sought for from the Government of India under RKVY scheme.

26. In order to prepare vermicompost in the backyards and roof tops of both urban and rural households utilizing the vegetable waste and other organic waste, 75% subsidy will be provided for the vermicompost beds and other required inputs.

Health Insurance scheme for the welfare of the farmers and agricultural labourers who are engaged on full time basis in agriculture in rural areas will be implemented from this year. Further, the new agricultural produce Export Policy will be announced.

27. My Government has allocated ₹ 8 crore to PASIC in the budget 2019-20 for settlement of pending salary and EPF dues taking into account the plight of the workers of PASIC. Necessary action will also be taken to augment the financial resources of PASIC.

28. My Government proposes to engage Agri Correspondent to help and facilitate the farmers in getting agricultural loans, MUDRA loans etc., from banks so that the farmers derive the maximum benefit out of Government Welfare Schemes. These correspondents will also facilitate availing loans under various projects being implemented by Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare Department. Moreover, the banks have agreed to simplify the administrative procedures for easily obtaining banking services. Simplified procedures will be implemented soon.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

29. In order to augment the growth of livestock and poultry in the Union Territory of Puducherry, various initiatives have been taken by my Government. Special emphasis will be given to protect livestock health, enhance productivity and create entrepreneurship. To get better output, superior Malabar semen will be distributed to all Key Village Units for insemination and grading of local goat population. Rehabilitation and renovation of Government poultry farms at Kariamannickam and Kottucherry will be taken up this year.

30. In order to introduce a germ plasm of a different origin and to prevent inbreeding, my Government has proposed to purchase Frozen semen from National Dairy Development Board this year. Crossbred Jersey and Sahiwal (Indigenous breed) semen will also be introduced. 6,000 milch cows are proposed to be purchased as part of "Puducherry White Revolution" scheme in order to obtain self-sufficiency in milk and milk products over a period of three years. Under the Dairy Entrepreneur Development Scheme (DEDS), 33% subsidy to SC community and 25% subsidy to others will be given for purchase of milch cows. In addition,

Government of Puducherry will provide 10% subsidy for this purpose. The remaining amount will be arranged through bank loans. This will give a fillip to rural economy especially rural women. In order to provide cattle breeding services at farmers' door steps, 17 Portable Liquid Nitrogen containers will be purchased for Veterinary Dispensaries.

31. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER) started in 1994 is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year. This college has over the years become one of the best sought after college for undergraduate studies. Technical skill oriented training will be given to the interested farmers to start Sheep / Goat and Poultry farm for 2-7 days by utilising the services of experts from the RIVER and Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare department. Loan facility will be made available through Nationalised Banks / NABARD under Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG) scheme.

32. Aiming at increasing the milk production of dairy cattle, and in line with the recently declared "Puducherry White Revolution", RIVER, in collaboration with PONLAIT and Department of Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare,

Puducherry will implement a pilot project on RIVER Mineral Mixture (area specific) for dairy cattle to improve productivity of cattle milk. This project will be taken up in Karaikal, Yanam and Puducherry (Pooranankuppam, Kompakkam, Bahour and Korkadu villages) to start with, Mineral mixture will be distributed to the dairy farmers of PONLAIT and a four months study will be undertaken to assess the increased income for farmers through milk production. This scheme will be gradually expanded based on the field study of this project.

33. RIVER has proposed to enter into two important Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Government of India.

- (i) The one with National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP), Bengaluru aims at studying “Climate change and its impact on livestock production”. This will help in identifying the breeds of goats which will be able to survive in the agro climatic condition of this region and to improve its production and productivity.

- (ii) The second one is with Central Institute for Research on Goats (CIRG) - ICAR, Makhdoom, Uttar Pradesh to undertake research on various emerging diseases of goats. Early diagnosis, prompt treatment and further prevention will be the area of interest.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

34. With a view to providing online family ration card related services to both rural and urban people, an Online Portal will be established. These services can be easily availed through Common Service Centres. 10 Kgs. of free rice will be distributed *in lieu of* cash (DBT) to the Yellow card holders under Free rice scheme. The Hon'ble Members are already aware that 20 Kgs. of rice are distributed to Red card holders. For distribution of free rice under the National Food Security Act and State's free rice scheme.

35. It is proposed to introduce decentralized procurement of paddy, with a view to ensuring that the farmers get minimum support price for paddy. Despite financial constraints, my Government has taken a humanitarian approach towards the employees of PAPSCO and has allocated ₹ 7 crore

in 2019-20 for settlement of their unpaid salaries and EPF dues to some extent in order to mitigate the hardship of employees.

CO-OPERATION

36. Hon'ble Members may be well aware that the Co-operative Movement was primarily started to prevent exploitation of the weaker sections of the society. My Government always attaches due importance to the co-operative sector especially in agriculture and its allied activities. As the skilled manpower is gradually decreasing, it is proposed to purchase 3 Milking Machines per society for 30 Primary Co-operative Milk Producers Societies. In order to protect the hard procured milk, 5,000 litre capacity Bulk Milk Cooler will be established at three Primary Co-operative Milk Producers' Society in Puducherry region. PONLAIT will be developed through the assistance from National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

37. In order to meet out the running cost and ensure better functioning of Fair Price Shops, Fair Price Shop subsidy will be enhanced from ₹ 90,000 to ₹ 1,75,000. Action will be taken for providing additional grants to the

Co-operative Societies running Fair Price Shops. It is proposed to set up ATM for ensuring better services to the customers of the Puducherry Co-operative Urban Bank. The Puducherry State Co-operative Bank (PSCB) will provide ATM service at three more branches. Further, mobile and Internet Banking Service for cashless transaction will be provided to the public and customers of PSCB.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

38. Education plays an important role for the personal, social and economic development of the nation. Education empowers minds that will be able to conceive good thoughts and ideas. My Government attaches more importance to school education and continues to extend various student welfare measures. In order to prevent dropouts in Government Schools, the existing welfare programmes like free supply of uniforms, text books, note books, concessional one rupee transport facilities, provision of milk in the morning under Break-fast scheme are implemented without any interruption from Pre-primary to 12th Std.

39. NEET coaching will be revamped giving priority for quality so that more Government school students may crack the NEET for admission to medical courses.

₹ 20 crore has been provided in the budget for maintenance and renovation of school buildings this year.

40. MoU has already been signed with Akshaya Patra Foundation to provide nutritious and wholesome Mid-Day Meals to school students from the academic year 2019-20. About 50,000 school students of Puducherry region will be benefitted.

41. It is proposed to appoint an Estate Manager in every Government School from among the non-teaching staff of the school who would be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the school building and premises. This Estate Manager would provide daily reports and video clips of the cleanliness of the school campus, functionality of toilets, availability of drinking water, security arrangements, etc., daily before noon to the Education Department. This would be done *via* a mobile app, which will be developed for this purpose. The officers of Education Department would take cognizance of this report, take the required action to resolve issue within schools then and there.

42. The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) will be restructured. To engage parents with the schools, Parent Teachers Meetings will be arranged regularly.

43. It is proposed to conduct self-defence classes in Government Schools for girls students to prepare them for defending themselves in difficult situations. Also, it has been proposed to introduce “Student Police” scheme in Puducherry.

44. It is proposed to convert five existing schools as “School of Excellence” viz., two in Puducherry, each one in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam on pilot basis. These schools will have classes from pre-school to higher secondary level. All modern IT facility and labs will be provided to promote quality education.

45. With a view to improving the students’ skills in mother tongue (Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu) and English language, a new scheme viz., Development of Early Academic Learning (DEAL) will be implemented in all primary schools this year. This will help the children gain command over language.

46. “Happiness Curriculum” will be introduced from Pre-kg to VIII standard with a view to reducing stress and strain in learning. Further, “Entrepreneur Curriculum” will be introduced to the students studying from IX to XII Std. The above two schemes will be implemented on pilot basis in 20 schools covering all regions of this Union Territory. This scheme will be gradually extended to all schools later.

SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

47. All the pending releases of Grant-in-aid to Pondicherry State Sports Authority viz., annual grant, participation grant and organisation grant will be fully settled. This will entitle an expenditure of ₹ 1.70 crore. The minimum salary for the Coaches working under Puducherry State Sports Council will be enhanced from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 22,000. Further, the consolidated pay for Senior Coaches will be enhanced from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 30,000.

48. Construction of 100 bedded girls SAI Hostel near the multi purpose indoor hall at Lawspet, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 12 crore will be completed by November 2019. Puducherry girls students will be accommodated in this hostel

to develop their sport talents. All India Inter Regional SAI Volleyball Championship for Boys and Girls will be held in Puducherry during first week of October 2019 in Puducherry which is a privilege to the Union Territory of Puducherry.

49. Daily allowances for school students participating in the State School Games Championship will be increased from ₹ 125 to ₹ 225 and more than 3,000 students will be benefitted. State School Games Championship for school students will be held at Karaikal (September), Mahe and Yanam (November) and Puducherry (December) in 15 sports discipline and more than 3,000 school students will be participating in the event for boys and girls in three age groups.

50. First time cash award will be awarded for the school students achieving medals in the National School Games as follows:-

Medals	Individual	Team Event
Gold	₹ 25,000	₹ 12,000
Silver	₹ 15,000	₹ 8,000
Bronze	₹ 10,000	₹ 5,000

51. Chief Minister's Award, Education Minister's Award and Sport's Minister Award will be presented alongwith cash dole of ₹ 20,000 to the school and college students who received medals in various national level sports events.

52. An international standard swimming pool is being constructed at Saradhambal Nagar, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 5 crore under Khelo India Schemes. It will be completed and dedicated to the Puducherry swimmers during March 2020. Approval has been obtained for laying synthetic athletic track in the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex at Uppalam, Puducherry with international standards at a cost of ₹ 7 crore. 10 Volleyball courts at a cost of ₹ 10 lakh each are being constructed at the following venues:
(i) Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Uppalam, Puducherry;
(ii) Bahour, Puducherry; (iii) Embalam, Puducherry;
(iv) Ariyankuppam, Puducherry; (v) Manaveli (Villianur), Puducherry; (vi) T.R. Pattinam, Karaikal; (vii) Thirunallar, Karaikal; (viii) Pandakkal, Mahe; (ix) Savithri Nagar, Yanam and (x) Guriampetta, Yanam. The will be completed this year.

53. Under the CSR scheme, the Airports Authority of India has sanctioned ₹ 5 crore to construct 4 multipurpose indoor sports facilities at Manaveli (Rajiv Gandhi Government Arts and Science College Campus, Thavalakkuppam); Bahour; T.R. Pattinam, Karaikal and Kanakalpetta, Yanam at a cost of ₹ 1.25 crore each. In the second phase, 8 multipurpose indoor sports facilities at Puducherry - Villianur, Embalam, Oussudu, Ariyankuppam, Mannadipet, Nettapakkam will be constructed. The stadium at Karaikal (Thirunallar) and Mahe (Palloor) will be taken up later.

ART AND CULTURE

54. Construction of Tagore Cultural complex in Ariyankuppam (in Puducherry) at a cost of ₹ 8.89 crore will be completed within this financial year. Proposal for construction of Tagore Cultural Complex for Yanam region has been sent to Government of India and sanction is expected shortly. A similar proposal will be sent to Government of India for Karaikal region. Proposal for renovation and digitalisation of existing Puducherry Museum into two local museums one at St. Louis Street and another at Romain Rolland Street, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 11 crore has been sent to Government of India and the sanction would be obtained early.

55. The Poornankuppam Government Branch Library functioning in rented building will be shifted to the newly constructed Government building by next month. The modernisation works of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan library, Karaikal at a cost of ₹ 76 lakh has commenced and it will be operational within two months. Kamban Pugazh awards to 10 Tamil writers will be conferred next month. The pending awards such as Kalaimamani, Tamilmamani, Telugu Ratna, Malayala Ratna, Tholkappiar, Nehru Children award will be conferred on the artistes / scholars by January 2020. Contemporary Art Gallery for the benefit of Fine Arts artistes will be established within two months near Puducherry Museum.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

56. My Government gives equal importance to higher education. Union Territory of Puducherry remains an educational hub and more initiatives to further expand it are being taken.

57. My Government has allocated funds to the tune of ₹ 41 crore for financial assistance under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme in the budget 2019-20. I am happy to announce in this august House

that a new Government Engineering College at an estimated cost of ₹ 26 crore will be established in Yanam with the financial assistance from the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the CSS “Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)”. An amount of ₹ 7.80 crore has already been released by MHRD as first instalment for this project.

58. Action has been taken to upgrade the Puducherry Engineering College as “Puducherry Technological University”. Accordingly, necessary Bill will be introduced in the current session of the Assembly. Similarly, action is being taken to set-up one “National Law University” in Puducherry Union Territory. It is also proposed to establish a “State University” exclusively for Arts and Science disciplines.

59. Preliminary works relating to obtaining administrative sanctions etc., have commenced for establishing the “University of Agricultural Sciences” covering PAJANCOA, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER) as already announced in the Legislative Assembly.

60. I am happy indeed to inform this august House that 7th CPC scales based on the recommendations of the UGC and AICTE to the teaching and equivalent

cadres will be implemented in all Society Colleges under the control of the Government of Puducherry despite financial constraints. An additional amount of ₹ 40 crore per annum is required to meet this expenditure. My Government has allocated required funds this year for the above purpose.

61. Based on the recommendations of the Puducherry State Higher Education Council, ten new UG / PG courses have been introduced in various Government and Society Colleges this year. It is proposed to introduce new UG and PG courses in Puducherry Union Territory including Yanam and Mahe regions in 2020-21 for which necessary preparatory works will commence this year. This includes starting of B.Sc. (Botany), B.Sc.(Zoology) and B.Tech. (Mechanical Engineering) courses in Yanam region. The existing courses in the Government and Society Polytechnic Colleges will be restructured to suit the prevailing market trends in order to have more job opportunities. It is proposed to provide Hostel facilities to the girl students of Kanchi Mamunivar Centre for Post Graduate Studies, Puducherry with the assistance from UGC.

62. It is proposed to establish an integrated coaching centre for students aspiring for appearing in IAS / IPS and other competitive examination in Kamarajar Manimandapam at Karuvadikuppam, Puducherry. In addition, Entrepreneurship training will also be given to students in order to encourage entrepreneurs. Similar coaching centres will also be established in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions. The centre will function in Yanam region at Dr. Ambedkar Vigyan Bhavan premises. These coaching centres will be under the administrative control of Department of Higher and Technical Education and CENTAC.

EXCISE

63. My Government has proposed to launch a mobile application to check non-duty paid liquor by excise officials. Another app will also be developed for the benefit of consumers which will provide detailed real-time information about the liquor being sold in the city.

64. An online Excise Supply Chain Information Management System will be developed to enable police personnel to monitor the movement of liquor with proper transport permits.

ELECTRICITY

65. The Union Territory of Puducherry has attained self-sufficiency in power sector. My Government is always committed to providing qualitative and uninterrupted power supply to all categories of consumers. In order to minimize the transmission and distribution loss as well as to strengthen the existing power infrastructure, it has been proposed to replace 3 nos. of 16 MVA Power Transformers with 25 MVA Power Transformers, two at 110 / 22 KV Thirubhuvanai Sub-station and one at Villianur 110 / 22 KV Sub-station. To conserve electricity as well as to ensure reliable functioning of all the street lights, the existing conventional street lights will be converted into LED street lights.

66. Based on the submission of a Detailed Project Report for an amount of ₹ 983 crore to the Central Electricity Authority for strengthening of transmission and distribution networks and Solar generation in order to meet the growing power demand by availing loan from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), the Central Electricity Authority has accorded technical clearance for the DPR and the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission has accorded

in-principle approval for Transmission and Distribution works amounting to ₹ 550.35 crore for the Control period FY 2019-20 to FY 2021-22. On successful completion of this Project, the quality of power supply is expected to considerably improve and the Transmission and Distribution losses would be brought down to the desired level of 10%.

67. Under primary distribution schemes, it is proposed to energize 60 new distribution transformers and enhance 20 existing distribution transformers to higher capacities. Further, it is proposed to erect 20 Kms. of HT lines and 50 Kms. of LT Lines, and to strengthen 2 Kms. of existing HT lines and 30 Kms. of existing LT lines.

68. In addition to the above power infrastructure development, It is proposed to effect 15 HT industrial services, 50 LT industrial services, 35 agricultural pump sets, 14,000 domestic services, 2,000 commercial services and 600 new street lights. Under General Cable Conversion works, it is proposed to lay 5 Kms. of HT UG Cables and 7 Kms. of LT UG cables and to convert 150 LT Over head services and 20 street lights into UG cable system.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

69. With a view to promoting solar energy consumption, my Government has proposed to offer Generation Based Incentive (GBI) under Solar power energy to the domestic consumers who produce solar energy in their premises and rooftops on first come first serve basis for a period of 3 years.

70. It is proposed to implement a new scheme to extend subsidy to 15,000 domestic consumers for erection of solar panels to produce solar energy of 1 KW to 3 KW. Detailed guidelines under this scheme including the Central and State subsidy components will be published shortly. It is also proposed to avail loan from NABARD at lower rate of interest for implementing this project. It is estimated that 4.5 crore units of solar power would be produced by these 15,000 houses. Moreover, the monthly electricity charges are likely to come down by ₹ 95 - ₹ 400 for domestic consumers. Similarly, another scheme for arranging loan facility at lower rate of interest by Government for industrial units and commercial establishments to erect solar panels for producing solar energy will be introduced. 20% subsidy

will also be extended for this category of consumers. My Government has decided to produce solar power in the Government buildings and surplus Government lands.

71. My Government has proposed to produce solar energy in Government higher educational institutions and Government buildings through Gross Net Metering Policy. Electricity power purchase will significantly come down through these measures besides considerable savings to Government.

72. Power consumption audit in various offices / Government buildings will be carried out under Building Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP).

73. Given the huge energy saving potential in buildings, my Government has proposed to enforce the Energy Efficiency Building Code (ECBC), which will be applicable for all commercial buildings having connected load of 100 KW or a plot area of 500 square meters or more.

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

74. My Government has been implementing various welfare schemes to the fishermen community such as ban assistance, lean season assistance, old age pension etc.

I am happy to announce that the Ban Relief Assistance (61 days) will be increased from ₹ 5,500 to ₹ 6,500. Similarly, the Lean Relief Assistance will also be enhanced from ₹ 2,500 to ₹ 3,000 per family. An estimated 20,000 fishermen families will be benefitted by these enhanced relief involving an additional expenditure of ₹ 3 crore per year.

75. I am happy to announce in this august House that the amount of old age pension being extended to 8,470 fishermen at present will also be enhanced to all the three categories as under:-

- (i) Age group between 50 and 59 from ₹ 1,570 to ₹ 2,000.
- (ii) Age group between 60 and 79 from ₹ 2,090 to ₹ 2,500.
- (iii) Age group of 80 years and above from ₹ 3,135 to ₹ 3,500.

This will entail an additional expenditure of about ₹ 50 lakh per year.

76. Moreover, the existing 50% subsidy for purchase of Steel/Wooden/FRP boats, non-motorized catamarans, FRP vallam boats, mini truck with 1-3 ton capacity and supply of fishery requisites to fishermen through Fishermen Co-operative Societies will be continued. It is proposed to enhance the Reactivation charges from ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 30,000 to nearly 510 registered Steel / Wooden / FRP Mechanized Boats and from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 20,000 to FRP Mechanized Boats (Gill netters). 90% Subsidy on the annual premium for insuring their boats will be paid by the Department for registered mechanized boat operators. 2,650 nos. of ice boxes will be supplied to the fish vendors at free of cost involving an expenditure of ₹ 1.33 crore.

77. Under the CSS scheme “Savings-cum-relief fund”, an amount of ₹ 7.92 crore will be provided to 26,379 active fishermen @ ₹ 3,000 per beneficiary as central share. Under Blue Revolution scheme, financial assistance involving ₹ 13.66 crore will be provided for various programmes like subsidy to the fishermen for procurement of outboard motor with gears, replacement of outboard motors, safety of fishermen at sea, deep sea fishing, conversion of trawlers, construction of new ponds, renovation of existing ponds and input costs for renovated ponds etc.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

78. It is a matter of great satisfaction to note that the vital health indicators of the Union Territory of Puducherry continue to be impressive. The infant mortality rate of Union Territory of Puducherry (IMR) is 10 per 1,000 live births, while India's average is 34 per 1,000 births. The IMR would be brought down to single digit in the coming years due to our concerted efforts. Nearly 99.9% of births take place in health institutions and 91.3% of children are immunised, as against the Indian average of 78.4% institutional births and 62% child immunisation respectively. Eventhough existing health services in this Union Territory are found to be good, my Government has entered into agreement with various Multi Speciality Hospitals for extending specialized services for the benefit of general public.

79. In order to ensure quick transportation of trauma patients with medical care to the nearest referral centre, it has been proposed to outsource the 108 Ambulance Services. Cash Award of ₹ 5,000 will be given to the person who helps the injured person in road accidents in shifting him to the hospital. Necessary guidelines under

this scheme will be notified soon. First Responder Vehicle on Motorcycle manned by persons having emergency medical training and equipped with Mobile data terminal / GPS devices will be introduced to reach narrow streets of congested areas within shortest possible time for immediate medical assistance.

80. Action will be taken to upgrade the Multiple Organ Transplantation and Strengthening of the Trauma Care Centre in the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Post Graduate Institute. The 'e-Health' Programme will be implemented in a phased manner. Renovation of General Hospital, Karaikal will be taken up this year. Tele-Medicine link with JIPMER have been provided to the Government General Hospital Karaikal and Yanam to provide facilities like live medical consultation, getting expert advice, etc.

81. Medical Council of India has given approval to start PG courses in two more departments, *i.e.* 4 seats in Microbiology and 2 seats in Anatomy from the academic year 2019-20. Providing MRI Scan services at a cost of ₹ 7.17 crore is under progress and will become operational shortly. I feel very happy in sharing with the Hon'ble Members that an Ayush Hospital in Villianur is being constructed with an estimated cost of ₹ 9 crore through

central assistance. Another AYUSH Hospital is also under construction in Yanam with central assistance at an estimated cost of ₹ 9 crore. A detailed project report for construction of 50 bedded AYUSH Hospital at Karaikal is proposed to be sent to Government of India.

82. In order to ensure the health care of the people of this Union Territory, my Government has proposed to launch a comprehensive Health Information Management System (HIMS).

83. Considering the increase in the number of people with Non-Communicable Diseases due to poor life style behaviours, a "Lifestyle Modification Centre" has been started in the Health Department at the old Secretariat building opposite to Bharathiar Park. Yoga and Naturopathy Centre has been built within the premises with the assistance from National AYUSH Mission. This centre will have a Yoga Hall, an Auditorium and Health Food Court for which necessary facilities will be created in the year 2019-20.

84. A new scheme called "Block Chain Technology" to provide regular medical assistance to Diabetics patients by collecting the health data of the patient through mobile / ipad will be implemented in Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Research Institute.

85. A Health Wellness Centre has been started by upgrading the sub-centre at Koravallimedu. An amount of ₹ 13.13 crore has been received from Government of India for upgrading all 40 Primary Health Centres and 81 Sub-Centres in the Union Territory of Puducherry as Health Wellness Centres along with a in-house Doctor and a Nurse with Yoga facilities. These centres will have facilities to have complete health check-up, particurly in respect of 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. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members of this House that a major financial commitment to the tune of ₹ 85 crore in connection with the acquisition of land for construction of Rajiv Gandhi Women and Children Hospital is to be honoured this year as per Hon'ble Supreme Court Order. Though this is a huge amount posing challenge, my Government is committed to pay this amount this year and necessary provision has been made in the budget.

86. Appropriate Act will be passed in the Assembly for allocation of 50% seats to Government quota by Medical Colleges and Deemed Universities of Puducherry Union Territory in UG and PG medicine courses and the same will be implemented from the academic year 2020-21.

87. Prime Minister's Ayushman Bharath Scheme will be implemented in this Union Territory w.e.f. 1-9-2019. Under this scheme, 1,03,474 families will be benefitted with insurance cover up to ₹ 5 lakh. This scheme will be expanded to cover the entire Union Territory.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

88. Financial assistance will be given to the temples which have not been renovated and consecrated for 12 years for consecration. Steps will be taken for strengthening the Department of Hindu Religious Institutions and Wakf Board. The Department will take steps to digitalize all the documents relating to gold and silver ornaments, statues of the deities and other movable properties of all temples. Further, survey of immovable properties of all temples will be made and action taken to protect the same from encroachments. Action will also be taken to realize fair rent for the leased out properties of temples so as to augment the revenue resources of the temples. Moreover, the details of immovable properties of temples will be inscribed and kept in the temple premises for public view.

INDUSTRIES

89. The Hon'ble Members are aware that with the advent of GST with effect from 1-7-2017 throughout the Country, the industrial activity in Puducherry has come down as the State Governments have no powers to give any tax concessions or tax holidays to encourage industrial growth. This is one of the major reasons for the sluggishness in industrial growth in the Union Territory of Puducherry. However, the Government of Puducherry has announced new Industrial Policy in the year 2016 with a view to extending all possible assistance to existing as well as new industrial units within the available ways and means of the Government of Puducherry. The new industrial policy has been widely appreciated.

90. The Government of India in its endeavour to provide the right stimulus for growth of industry particularly with the objective of helping Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has established Tool Rooms in certain places in the Country. Puducherry has also been selected for establishment of Tool Room Technology Centre and 10 acres of land has already been transferred to the Ministry of MSME. As the construction of Tool Room is nearing completion, this is expected to be commissioned in September 2019.

91. Innovative ideas and new business avenues come through "Startups". My Government has formulated an active startup policy, which will be notified shortly. This is expected to give a stimulus to growth of MSME in Puducherry Union Territory. Further, my Government is keen on ensuring ease of doing business in Puducherry. A dedicated ease of doing business website portal has been successfully launched through which getting licenses / permissions from various line departments has been unified online in order to avoid delay in getting necessary clearance.

92. Food processing industries have a huge potential for industrial development and this Government is taking steps to setup food processing cluster at Sedarapet through PIPDIC with central assistance.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

93. Hon'ble Members are quite aware that Information Technology has immensely contributed for good and efficient governance. It is proposed to expand the services under the "e-districts" project for delivery of hassle free services to the public. The e-governance initiative facilitates citizens to have easy access to various kinds of Government services and will eliminate the role of intermediaries / agents and

prevent forgery of documents / certificates. Under e-Office programme, creation of file, notings, draftings, submission of file along with all correspondences are being done electronically.

94. My Government has proposed to increase the number of Common Service Centre (CSC) for availing Government services by common public from within their locality itself. Action will be taken to launch Micro-ATM facility at CSC. It is also proposed to increase delivery of e-Stamp in 30 more CSCs. Further, the official websites of various Departments in the Union Territory of Puducherry will be revamped in compliance with the Guidelines of Indian Government Websites (GIGW) and Persons with Disability-friendly, through funding by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E), Government of India. For setting up of an IT park MoUs will be signed with qualified firms.

LABOUR WELFARE

95. My Government is fully committed to protect and safeguard the interests of the workers and labourers and create a healthy working environment. The main focus is on providing social security to the labour force both in organized and unorganized sectors.

96. It is proposed to conduct Skill Development Training Programme for 200 SC womenfolk in 8 various trades. Job fair will be conducted in Puducherry and in Karaikal region to create employment opportunities to the unemployed educated youth. The Puducherry Un-organised Labourers' Welfare Society functioning under Societies Act will be converted into a Board in the name of Puducherry Un-organised Labourers' Welfare Board so as to create financial resources on its own. The Government ITI (Men), Mettupalayam, Puducherry will be converted as "Model ITI" with an estimated cost of ₹ 5 crores under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. I am happy to announce that Mid-day meals will be provided to all students studying in ITIs. An amount of ₹ 55 lakh per annum will be spent for this purpose. With the assistance from ESI a new speciality hospital with 50 beds is proposed to be constructed for which foundation stone will be laid and works will commence this year.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

97. Under Smart City Mission, the following 8 projects have been identified for implementation as Fast Track Projects viz., (1) Installation of water ATMs; (2) Installation of mobile

toilet, (3) Installation of modular-toilet, (4) Upgradation of public toilet, (5) Bicycle sharing, (6) City branding, (7) Information Kiosk and (8) Unified payment card under Smart City Mission. These projects will be immediately implemented this year.

98. Under Solid Waste Management (SWM) component of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), various projects to the tune of ₹ 2.90 crore are in progress. In addition, it is proposed to obtain ₹ 17 crore from Government of India to implement various projects under the SWM. The two components of National Urban Livelihood Mission viz., (i) Support to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV) and (ii) Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) will be taken up this year.

99. Under SUSV, my Government has proposed to regulate the street vending by establishing smart vending zones, training to vendors, financial assistance to vendors by way of loans, insurance policies, etc. So far 2,922 street vendors have been identified and issued with Identity cards.

100. Under SUH, it is proposed to construct new night shelters for homeless in Puducherry and Yanam municipality at a cost of ₹ 1.00 crore and to renovate the existing

night shelters at Oulgaret, Karaikal and Mahe municipality at an estimated cost of around ₹ 1.00 crore. I am happy to inform that as already announced based on the request of Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly, MLA Local Area Development Fund has been enhanced from ₹ 1.00 crore to ₹ 2.00 crore and required funds have been provided in the budget.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

101. "Outcome Budgeting" will be implemented by strengthening the monitoring and evaluation unit of the Planning Department. The unit will prepare a Department-wise roadmap linking outlays against each scheme / project with the output / deliverable and medium and long term outcomes in measurable quantitative terms. In the first instance, the Social Welfare Department will be taken up for evaluation under outcome budget on pilot basis.

102. The Government of India replaced the Planning Commission with a new Institution viz., "NITI AAYOG" which is an advisory body for formulation of schemes and other related matters. This apart, the Government of India have dispensed with the practice of classifying the expenditure

as Plan and Non-plan, and instead new classification as Capital and Revenue has been introduced from the financial year 2017-18. On account of this development, a need has arisen as to whether State Planning Board and it recommending the annual plan size should continue in Puducherry Union Territory. This will be examined in depth and appropriate policy decisions will be taken soon. On the lines of Chief Minister Economic Advisory Councils functioning in many States, a “Chief Minister Economic and Administrative Advisory Council” will be constituted in Puducherry Union Territory. Subject experts, retired and experienced government officers will be a part of the above proposed council.

POLICE

103. My Government has been according top priority to maintenance of Law and Order for ensuring peace and social harmony in Puducherry Union Territory. The performance of Puducherry Police is laudable and as you all know, almost all the crime are cracked immediately and the offenders brought to book. It is proposed to replace all the Static / Hand Held walkie-talkies with digital based VHF Static / Hand Held Repeater sets. Purchase of four wheelers and two wheelers against condemnation of old vehicles for an

amount ₹ 2.11 crore for police force has also been proposed. In order to further strengthen the police force, it is proposed to recruit 44 Sub-Inspectors, 390 Police Constables, 200 Coastal Home Guards, 265 Home Guards, 29 Drivers and to fill other related vacancies in Police Department.

PORT

104. My Government is keen on developing the Puducherry Port for commercial operations which is expected to bring substantial revenue to the Government. Maintenance dredging of 1.23 cubic metres will be carried out at the mouth of Puducherry Port for the smooth and uninterrupted fishing activities. The Sagarmala Scheme being funded by the Government of India for capital dredging of Port will be operationalized this year after completion of required formalities like environmental clearing etc. I wish to inform the House that the Government of India has already released ₹ 18 crore for this project.

PUBLIC WORKS

105. It is a well-known fact that infrastructure development is critical for economic development of a State and it helps improve productivity and steer economic growth.

My Government has always been 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., Under roads and bridges sector, ten road projects (six in Karaikal, two in Puducherry and one each in Mahe and Yanam regions) will be taken up this year at an approximate project cost of ₹ 87.56 crore which includes construction of approach roads to Road Overbridge on NH-45A to the tune of ₹ 23.60 crore and reconstruction of bridge across River Pravadayananar in Karaikal District for ₹ 9.91 crore.

106. Provision of protected water supply is one among the priorities of my Government. Keeping in mind the future requirements of water desalination scheme will be implemented.

107. In order to strengthen / augment the water supply and sewerage facilities, my Government has proposed to take up six projects in Puducherry region with an estimated cost of ₹ 28.73 crore in Ariyankuppam Commune, Oulgaret Municipality, Kompakkam village of Puducherry, Engineers' Colony at Velrampet and Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar in Oulgaret Municipality. Besides two new projects viz., Comprehensive

Water Supply Scheme for Core - Urban Area of Karaikal district (Central Zone-Karaikal) at an estimated cost of ₹ 49.46 crore and construction of 5 MLD Water Treatment Plant in Arasalar river under augmentation of Karaikal Water Supply Scheme for ₹ 5.40 crore will be taken up this year.

108. Under irrigation sector, interlinking of French Channel and Adavipolam channel with pumping in Yanam region at an estimated cost of ₹ 24.90 crore is under progress. Under building programme, construction of new buildings, renovation and upgradation of existing buildings, creation of infrastructure facilities in schools and hospitals, construction of officers quarters, and construction of 50 bedded integrated Ayush Hospital at Villianur, Puducherry will be taken up this year at an estimated cost of ₹ 119.44 crore.

REVENUE

109. Our Government accords top priority to the redressal of public grievances. In pursuance of the recently announced “Makkal Kural” scheme (Voice of People), I and my Ministers alongwith officers went to Nettapakkam Constituency, met the people heard them and took necessary action to

solve their problems. During the above said meeting with people, the objectives of various Government schemes were explained to them through film show. The next “Makkal Kural” meet will be arranged at Neravy, T.R. Pattinam in Karaikal district. The Council of Ministers will visit all the remaining 28 Constituencies within six months and take appropriate action to redress their grievances. This has received wider appreciation among the public and this has given us an impetus to serve the people.

110. The need for submission of various type of affidavits will also abolished. The procedures will be simplified for availing public services by doing away with the requirement of attestation of documents to be submitted to Government offices and instead self-attestation / certification will be accepted. This procedure will be implemented soon.

111. The Revenue Department has been issuing caste certificate, nationality certificate, income certificate etc., online. In order to process the online applications received from public, laptops will be provided to the Village Administrative Officer (VAO).

LAW

112. A new scheme providing for one year internship in Law Department for Under Graduate students of Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College after completion of their Under Graduate course will be implemented. A monthly assistance of ₹ 9,000 will be given to the students for internship training.

113. The monthly assistance presently being given for two years to young lawyers from poor families with an annual income of less than ₹ 2,00,000 will be enhanced from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 5,000.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

114. For skill development of youth in coastal areas, the Government of India is implementing the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) Scheme. Under this scheme, it is proposed to provide the coastal communities right skills for better opportunities emanating from the large scale impact of Sagarmala Projects. With the skill development, there will be close involvement of coastal communities in Sagarmala and will make them

contributors in the economic development and will ensure inclusive growth of the coastal districts of the Country. I am happy to inform that Puducherry district has been selected for implementing this project.

115. Morethan 80% of rural women are engaged in agricultural activities for their livelihoods. The Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) scheme of the Central Government seeks to improve the present status of women in agriculture and to enhance the opportunities available to empower them. This will encourage their participation and productivity and create a sustained agriculture based livelihood for rural women. It is proposed to cover 2,000 women farmers under this scheme in 2019-20.

SURVEY AND LAND RECORDS

116. In order to ensure transparency in the maintenance of land records, my Government has proposed to digitalize all the free pattas issued under the Land Grant Rules (LGR) and the same will be uploaded in the website for public view. In order to take up Modern Survey for the entire Union Territory of Puducherry, the validity of survey period will be extended for another five years. All the

legacy documents available in the Department will be digitally maintained under “Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme”.

117. In order to clear huge pending patta transfer applications received from public, it is proposed to deploy competent surveyors. Necessary guidelines, in this regard will be issued shortly by the Directorate of Survey and Land Records and licenses will be issued for this purpose.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

118. My Government has submitted a preliminary project proposal to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) in the Union Territory of Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹ 122 crore. Various projects for shoreline management, pollution control, coastal resource conservation, livelihood improvement and tourism development are proposed to be implemented under this scheme.

119. It is also proposed to set up space exposition centre and innovation hub integrating the earlier proposed Planetarium at Thirunallar, Karaikal at a cost of ₹ 3.75 crore this year.

120. LED screens will be installed at different places in all the regions of the Union Territory for displaying environmental issues, traffic flow information, etc. with a view to creating public awareness.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

121. With the construction of 3,000 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Scheme is nearing completion this year, projects to construct another 2,000 houses will be submitted to Government of India. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based master plan will be prepared for Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions under the AMRUT Sub Scheme.

122. My Government has proposed to seek financial assistance under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for renovation of the houses built long ago under various Government housing schemes and now remain in a dilapidated condition. Approximately 750 beneficiaries have been identified under this category. Action will be taken to obtain Central subsidy of ₹ 1.5 lakh and State subsidy of ₹ 50,000 and to meet the remaining cost of ₹ 2 to ₹ 3 lakh through bank loan. A project report in this regard is proposed to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

TOURISM

123. It is heartening to note that the Tourism sector is gaining momentum in Puducherry Union Territory. The tourist arrival to the Puducherry has registered a significant growth of 8% over the last year. My Government has initiated various tourism projects at a cost of more than ₹ 181 crore with central assistance. The beach development works at Vambakeerapalayam, Veerampattinam and Chinna Veerampattinam beaches have been completed and works for another two new beaches at Manapet and Narambai are in progress and will be completed this year. A Beach Resort at Karaikal has been operationalised by India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC). Action has been taken to construct and operate cottages at beaches on turnkey basis which will generate additional revenue to the Government.

124. Puducherry has become a most sought after weekend destination. Steps will be taken to gradually transform Puducherry from weekend to weeklong destination this year. The ongoing works of Cultural Complex-cum-Convention Centre at Old Distilleries and renovation of old godowns at Port area for promotion of Business / MICE (Meeting, Incentives, Conferencing, Exhibitions) tourism will be completed this year.

To achieve this goal, a special provision of ₹ 1.00 crore has been additionally made to organize MICE Conclave, Puducherry Travel Mart and Familiarisation Tour, to travel and tour operators.

125. A Heritage Village will be set up at Murungapakkam. As a part of Eco-tourism development, a boat ride from Art and Crafts Village to Arikamedu will be introduced to experience the “Pondy Necklace” - the Mangrove Magic of Puducherry. The ongoing works with the central assistance under Coastal Circuit, Heritage Circuit and Spiritual Circuit will be completed this year.

126. To create a standard platform for private investment, Tourism Trade Act and specific Guidelines for Registration of Home Stays will be introduced. Mobile app and Online Tourist Information System will be developed through NIC for the benefit of tourists. Various theme-based tours like e-Bike Tour, Heritage Tour, Spiritual Tour, Eco Tour, Adventure Tour, Beaches of Puducherry, Boutiques of Boulevard, Culinary of Boulevard, Beyond Puducherry (covering outlying regions) will be organized through private participation. Rural and Agri Tourism Policy will be published in order to encourage rural and agriculture tourism. Special tourists guide training programme will be organized to develop Freelance Tourist Guides in Puducherry.

127. Tourist accommodation facilities and the Spiritual Park at Thirunallar will be completed this year. The renovation of the Government Tourist Home at Kovilpathu will be taken up and additional rooms constructed for the benefit of pilgrims. Development works at Karaikal beach will also be taken up. The development of Recreational Park around Yanam Tower will be completed and the Phase-II of the work will also be taken up subsequently. New boats will be purchased for water sports activities at Yanam.

128. Project proposal for the following projects for ₹ 114.50 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, for financial assistance: (i) Development of Yacht Marina and Entertainment Zone in Puducherry ; (ii) Sound and Light Show in Puducherry; (iii) Mangrove Park in Karaikal; (iv) Development of Open Air Theatre and Multipurpose Hall in Karaikal; (v) Beautification of Sacred Pond at Big Mosque in Karaikal; (vi) Development of Beach in Mahe; (vii) Development of Temple / Church / Mosque in Mahe; (viii) Phase-II Development of Botanical Garden in Yanam; (ix) Waterfront Development in Yanam.

TRANSPORT

129. My Government has initiated necessary action for setting up of an Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) in Puducherry region with the central assistance of ₹ 17.00 crore from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and land to the extent of 10 acres has already been acquired for this purpose. Moreover, Government land to the extent of 3 acres has been identified for setting up of the Regional Driver Training Centre (RDTC) in Karaikal. In order to ensure the roadworthy condition of vehicles, it is proposed to set up an Inspection and Certification Centre (I&C) in Puducherry region at an estimated cost of ₹ 15.75 crore of which ₹ 14.40 crore will be through central funding and the remaining amount of ₹ 1.35 crore state share. The project will be executed by Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. In order to reduce heavy traffic flow in Puducherry, junction improvements, reallocation of bus stops etc. will be carried out this year.

ADI DRAVIDAR AND SCHEDULED TRIBES WELFARE

130. My Government is always committed to the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people and to improve their economic and educational status. Under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP), allocation of funds to the extent of 16% of population as per population census is made every year. I am glad to inform the Hon'ble Members that ₹ 326 crore has been allocated this year (2019-20) under SCSP as against ₹ 304 crore in 2018-19. For providing safe drinking water facility in SC habitations ₹ 2.00 crore has been allocated in this budget for provision of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants.

131. At present, the SC people of Puducherry especially from rural areas need to travel to Puducherry to approach the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department to get their grievances redressed which creates hardship to them. My Government has therefore proposed to establish a Adi Dravidar Welfare Sub-Office at Villianur, which is an important location connecting many rural areas of Puducherry region. Three phase power line will be provided instead of existing single phase power line in SC habitations.

BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES WELFARE

132. My Government has been implementing various welfare schemes for 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, educational loan, microfinance etc., are extended to backward classes community through Puducherry Backward Classes and minorities Corporation by availing loan from National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. Kits to poor artisans are also distributed. Similarly the same benefits are also made available to the minority communities also. My Government has allocated ₹ 5.00 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.

133. Free dhoti and saree will be given to all red family ration card holders belonging to backward community on the occasion of Tamil New Year.

134. In addition to the existing hostels for girls and boys in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions, it is proposed to construct a Residential School at Korkadu revenue village in Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹ 12.00 crore. Another new hostel for OBC girl students at Embalam has also been proposed this year.

135. Hon'ble Members of this august House will appreciate that caste based census is necessary for collecting reliable and accurate data relating to economic, social and educational status of different castes. Since no such exercise has been undertaken in the Union Territory of Puducherry so far, it is difficult to know whether the fruits of development and benefits of the Government schemes really reach the targeted sections of people. This census will enable the Government to redefine its welfare schemes based on the latest data. Therefore, I am happy to announce in this august Assembly that my Government has proposed to conduct a Caste Based Survey in 2019-20. An amount of ₹ 1.00 crore is to be allotted for this purpose.

SOCIAL WELFARE

136. The Directorate of Social Welfare has been implementing various welfare programmes for the benefit of differently abled persons, children, aged people and other weaker sections of the society in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

137. Under various welfare schemes of the Government, about 21,000 differently abled persons are benefitted every year. Out of the total budget outlay for Social Welfare Department, almost 70% is being spent for differently abled persons. The monthly financial assistance to differently abled persons involving an annual expenditure of ₹ 52 crore will continue to be implemented. Similarly, the other important schemes meant for the welfare of differently abled persons *viz.*, marriage assistance, reimbursement of educational expenses, fuel subsidy, funeral expenses etc., are implemented benefitting a number of differently abled persons in this Union Territory. Free bus pass to travel in the Government buses by the differently abled persons will continue to be implemented.

138. The Unique Disability ID (UDID) project of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will be implemented in this Union Territory this year. There are 8 Family Counselling Centres functioning in Puducherry region. Amicable settlement of family disputes are made by talented counsellors alongwith rehabilitation and reference services. Approximately 2,000 persons have been benefitted by these counselling centres.

139. My Government has decided to implement a new scheme, "Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse". The objective of this scheme is to strengthen the de-addiction and rehabilitation services and to make supplementary measures in this direction. Community based organizations, NGOs will be involved in this programme. De-addiction Centres for juveniles will be established in Government General Hospitals in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

140. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that the 12th Plan Working Group on Women's Agency and Empowerment have recommended setting up of "One Stop

Crisis Centres” for providing shelter, police desk, legal, medical and counselling services to victims of violence under one roof integrated with a 24 hour helpline. Accordingly, Government of India has approved construction of three “One Stop Centre” each one in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam region. The required land for construction of One Stop Centre has been identified in Karaikal and Yanam region and the construction will be taken up this year. In Mahe region, it will function in the Government Hospital.

141. The Government of India has assigned a short code “181 Women Helpline” so as to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence through referral (linking with appropriate authority), and information about women related Government scheme programmes across the country through a single uniform number. With the financial assistance from Central Government, Women Help Line (WHL) will be established in Puducherry to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence under one roof.

142. “Swadhar Greh” a centrally sponsored scheme, which provides shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and security to women in difficult circumstances is implemented

in Puducherry Union Territory and it is presently run by an NGO. It is proposed to construct a new building for implementing this scheme in the vacant land available in the Ariyankuppam Juvenile home campus with central assistance.

143. The "Old Age Pension" scheme is continuously implemented by my Government without any interruption. 1,44,847 persons of old age, widows, destitute, unmarried women and transgenders avail monthly assistance under this scheme for which ₹ 330 crore is spent every year. In addition to the existing beneficiaries, my Government has included 10,000 new eligible beneficiaries under the scheme from February 2019 onwards involving an additional expenditure of ₹ 21 crore per year.

CONCLUSION

144. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that with the revenue expenditure of this Union Territory going up significantly over the years, the available resources are inadequate to meet the growing demand for undertaking capital nature of works and infrastructure projects. However, sufficient funds for core infrastructure needs like roads, power, water supply etc., have been provided in this budget.

145. Given the needs of employees/retired pensioners of Public Sector Undertakings like PAPSCO, PASIC, AFT, Swedheshi Bharathi Mills etc., funds have been provided towards settlement of pensions, salary and retirement benefits. Action will be taken immediately to fill up the vacant post in Government Departments by promotion and direct recruitment and appointments will be made accordingly.

146. I utilise this opportunity to assure the Hon'ble Members that my Government will continue to take concerted efforts to increase the Union Territory's own resources without any additional burden of tax / fees on public, besides urging the Government of India for additional central assistance on par with States.

147. Sir, with this presentation, I now commend the Budget to this august House for its consideration and approval.

Vazhga Bharatham !

Velga Puducherry !

Nandri ! Vanakkam !!

