सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

BUDGET SPEECH

2023 - 2024

Thiru **N. RANGASAMY**

Hon'ble Chief Minister



13th March, 2023

BUDGET SPEECH
2023-2024

படைகுடி கூழ்அமைச்சு நட்புஅரண் ஆறும்
உடையான் அரசருள் ஏறு.

– குறள்.

“Army, Subjects, wealth, ministers, allies, forts – who has these six is a lion among monarchs”.

Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly,

I rise to present the budget for the year 2023-24 before this august House. Copies of Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2023-24 are being supplied to the Hon’ble Members.

2. I am happy to present my third budget in the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly and I owe this opportunity to people of this Union Territory who have given me this privilege.

3. Goal of my Government is focusing all round development of Union Territory of Puducherry and to provide everyone an equitable life and rights with social justice. To achieve inclusive growth, special attention has been given to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Most Backward Classes, Backward classes, Minorities, Women and Children, Senior Citizens and the Differently Abled Persons. I am proud to announce that my Government has taken all steps to implement all the welfare measures to the citizens of this Union Territory of Puducherry.

4. It is a great honour to our Government to the opportunity given to host the first G20 summit in Puducherry. Puducherry has the peculiar culture, structure and has further gained global spotlight after the G20 summit held. Dignitaries and delegates from

Bangladesh, Mauritius, Nigeria, Netherlands, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE were invited and attended the event. In a bid to attract International tourists, a special event has been arranged to show our rich cultural uniqueness and diversity of Puducherry.

5. The GST Compensation released by the Central Government ceased on 30th June, 2022. Further, the VAT rate on Petrol and Diesel reduced by the Central Government and for the welfare of the people of this Union Territory my Government also reduced the tax rates. My Government has requested additional Central Assistance to compensate the revenue loss. Based on our request, Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister granted additional Normal Central Assistance of ₹1,250 crore in the Budget Estimate 2023-24. For this, my Government extends sincere thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Hon'ble Union Finance Minister.

6. The Budget size for the financial year 2023-24 has been fixed at ₹ 11,600 crore, of which Union Territory's own resources is ₹ 6,154.54 crore, Normal Central Assistance including Disaster Fund is ₹ 3,117.77 crore. ₹ 620 crore as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Remaining ₹ 1,707.69 crore will be mobilised from Open Market Borrowings and Loans from Central Financial Institutions. Additional allocation of fund has been made to Negotiated Loan in order improve the infrastructure facilities than the last year.

7. I am to inform this august House that as per Central Government's guidance, my Government has introduced the Special Budgeting Components *viz.,* (i) Gender Budgeting; (ii) Youth Budgeting and (iii) Green Budgeting in the Budget Estimate 2023-24. My Government has allocated an amount of ₹ 2,391 crore towards special budgeting components in the budget for the year 2023-24 to all Departments. Further, I am happy to inform this august House that my Government will focus on the Special Budgeting components in the Budget for the year 2023-24.

(i) *Gender Budgeting* : Gender Budgeting is an approach to Government budgeting that analyzes and evaluates budget policies and allocations from a gender perspective. By prioritizing funding for programs and services that benefit women, promoting women's participation in decision-making processes and tracking budget expenditures. Gender budget can promote Women's empowerment and gender equality. Provisions of funds to the tune of ₹1,332 crore has been earmarked in Budget Estimate 2023-24 towards Gender Budgeting.

(ii) *Youth Budgeting*: Youth Budgeting includes those programmes and schemes under various Departments of Government that caters to the growth and welfare of the youth population of the Union Territory of Puducherry in the age group of 15-29, since they are the architect of our Country. Provisions of funds to the tune of ₹504 crore has been earmarked in Budget Estimate 2023-24 towards Youth Budgeting.

(iii) *Green Budgeting* : I am happy to inform that my Government is the first in our country to introduce the Green Budgeting. Green Budgeting is a financial planning approach that involves the integration of environmental and sustainability considerations into the budgetary process of the Government. The main aim of Green budgeting is to ensure that public funds are used in such a way that promotes sustainable development and minimises environmental damage. In order to access the green oriented schemes and plans in the Annual Budget, that are required for fulfilling the commitments of environmental sustainability and climate change, my Government has initiated the process of Green Budgeting exercise with the support of "The Energy and Resources Institute" (TERI), New Delhi. Further, Orientation workshop has been conducted in order to sensitize them on the idea of Green Budgeting. Hence, a sum of ₹ 555 crore has been earmarked to all Departments in the Budget Estimate 2023-24.

8. Hon'ble Members are aware that a major portion of our financial resources goes to meet the committed expenditure such as salaries, pension, repayment of loan and interest payments. Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 11,600 crore for the year 2023-24, an amount of ₹ 2,542.81 crore is allocated for salaries (21.92 %), ₹ 1,455.32 crore for pensions (12.53 %) and ₹ 1,850.75 crore for debt servicing (15.95 %) *i.e.,* payment of loan and interest, and ₹ 1,690 crore for purchase of power (14.57 %). Other major expenditure of the Government includes Old Age Pension and other welfare schemes to the tune of ₹ 1,856 crore (16 %), Grant-in-aid to society-run higher educational institutions to the tune of ₹ 350.06 crore (3 %), for the Public Sector Undertakings, Local Bodies, Co-operative Institutions and others to the extent of ₹ 1,089.91 crore (9.39 %). Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 11,600 crore, to the tune of ₹ 1,623.64 crore would be under Capital Head and ₹ 9,976.36 crore would be under Revenue Head.

9. With this preamble, I shall present Department-wise budget proposals for the year 2023-24.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

10. Hon'ble Members are well aware that Agriculture plays a vital role for food production, economic development especially for employment and augmentation of income to the rural people.

11. To encourage the agriculturists and for bringing more area for less water consuming crops and for achieving increased production, it is proposed to grant additional production incentives. At present ₹3,000 per acre is being provided as production incentive for pulses. In addition to this, input subsidy of ₹2,000 will be provided totaling to ₹5,000. At present ₹5,000 per acre is being provided as production incentive for groundnut. In addition to this, input subsidy of ₹3,000 will be provided totaling to ₹8,000. At present ₹3,000 per acre is being provided

as production incentive for sesame. In addition to this, input subsidy of ₹2,000 will be provided totaling to ₹5,000. At present ₹5,000 per acre is being provided as production incentive for millets. In addition to this, input subsidy of ₹2,000 will be provided totaling to ₹7,000.

12. The Scheme for cultivation of millets is proposed to be implemented in the International year of Millets 2023 to encourage the farmers to cultivate millets. Training on value addition and marketing of millets will be imparted to Women both in rural and urban areas.

13. Under the sub-mission on Agricultural mechanization scheme, it is proposed to continue distribution of tractors, power tillers, combined harvesters, drones, *etc.,* to the farmers with subsidy.

14. It is proposed to distribute organic agricultural inputs *viz.,* Compost, Vermi-Compost, Bio-fertilizers, Gypsum, Micro nutrients, diancha and sunhemp seeds

to the General Farmers at 75% subsidy and free of cost to Scheduled Caste farmers to improve soil health and agricultural production.

15. It is proposed to increase the incentive for seed production at the rate of ₹10 and ₹12 for certified seeds paddy and Groundnut/pulses and for ₹14 and ₹17 for foundation seeds of Paddy and Groundnut/Pulses respectively. It is also proposed to extend the subsidy at 75% to General farmers and 90% to Scheduled caste farmers. It is further proposed to establish Seed Villages and Seed Hubs for production and timely distribution of seeds to the farmers.

16. The Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Pondicherry was inaugurated during 1974 which is the first Krishi Vigyan Kendra started in the country. Towards its Golden Jubilee celebration, an amount of ₹1 crore has been allotted to construct training centre, farmers rest house and rehabilitation of existing building.

17. It is proposed to implement Micro Irrigation Scheme by availing funds from Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and Micro Irrigation Fund for NABARD and extend 90% subsidy for small and marginal farmers, 75% subsidy for big farmers and free of cost for Scheduled Caste farmers.

18. In the Union Territory of Puducherry around 6,700 borewells are being operated for irrigation purpose by the farmers. My Government provides free electricity to the farmers operating motor pump sets for agriculture purposes. In order to reduce the power consumption, it is proposed to consult with REAP for exploring the possibilities of implementing solar power operated borewells for farmers. An amount ₹1 crore has been allocated for the purpose.

19. In order to promote traditional varieties of paddy and to enhance income for the farmers those who are growing traditional varieties under organic farming, it is proposed to extend production incentives at ₹8,000 per acre for two paddy growing seasons.

20. Under the “Paramparaghat Krishi Vikas Yojana” Scheme, organic farming practices will be promoted. It is also proposed to bring around 600 hectares, under organic farming cultivation during 2023-24 and 2024-2025.

21. To encourage organic farming and by using re-cycle of crop residues and farm animals waste, it is proposed to extend 50% subsidy for the purchase of 1000 litre capacity portable bio-gas units for farmers.

22. Integrated Agricultural Extension Centre with 50 members seating capacity Farmers Meeting Hall will be established at Ariyur and Karikalampakkam. To encourage agricultural export, it is proposed to implement new scheme for farmers cultivating jasmine from 5 to 10 cent land.

23. An integrated Agricultural Complex will be constructed in the Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture, Villianur for Agricultural Engineering and

Horticulture sections. Action will be taken for implementation of Ground Water Recharging Scheme through Rain Water Harvesting and Recharging surplus water.

24. An amount of ₹159.36 crore has been allocated for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in 2023-24.

FOREST

25. It is proposed to remove Prosopis juliflora from mangroves and re-foresting the area with naturally occurring tidal species. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, it is proposed to establish Watch Tower at Oussudu. For the promotion of a wild life Sanctuary Eco-tourism at Oussudu will be undertaken by my Government Training programmes will be conducted in the field like Wildlife Rescue, Anti-Poaching, Snake Handling, Sea-Turtle Conservation, Tree Plantation, *etc.*

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

26. It is a known fact that Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare plays a vital role for the rural economy and most of the farmers depend upon animal husbandry for their livelihood.

27. In order to attain self sufficiency in milk production and sustainability of farmers by increasing the production of milk and also to increase egg production and livestock holders. In order to increase the livestock my Government has proposed to implement several schemes.

28. It is proposed to give one milch cow to the beneficiaries at 50% subsidy. Further, two milch cows will be given at 50% subsidy to the farmers who already possess one milch cow. To facilitate setting up of Mini Dairy comprising of 5 milch cows and to bring the farmers into this dairy those who are having 3 milch cows will be given 2 additional milch cows at 40% subsidy rates.

29. In order to improve the livelihood of rural people and also to increase the meat production, it is proposed to provide 5 female goats and one male goat to nearly 1,000 beneficiaries with 50% subsidy.

30. To increase clean milk production and also to reduce the manpower shortage in milking, my Government proposes to introduce modern technologies in milking. It is proposed to give the milking machines at free of cost to the farmers and to distribute them to the farmers. By using these machines, milking may be done quickly and cleanly with simple technology and Mastitis disease will also be controlled.

31. Since, the scheme of distributing cattle feed and calf feed at 75% subsidy during last year had attracted an overwhelming response from the farmers, the same will be continued during this financial year also.

32. Under the back ended subsidy scheme, the Giriraja chickens reared for 6 weeks in the Government Poultry will be distributed to the eligible beneficiaries this year also with 50% subsidy as was distributed last year. As the sale of turkey meat has a significant place in the market, the Government has now proposed to distribute poults aged about 6 weeks to the eligible beneficiaries with 50% subsidy to encourage rearing of turkeys.

33. Considering the facts that the area of cultivable lands are shrinking due to urbanization and also to minimize the usage of water and to encourage feeding of cows with green fodder, it has been proposed to introduce 'Hydroponic farming' in Puducherry this year. Under this scheme, a Hydroponic Unit which costs about ₹35,000 containing seeds, racks, *etc.* will be distributed to the farmers at free of cost. As the milch cows are getting green fodder through this scheme, fat rich milk can be obtained, through which the farmers will get more income.

34. Action has been taken to combat the diseases of the livestock. Under the scheme of Livestock Health and Disease Control, it is proposed to purchase 3 Mobile veterinary unit.

35. It has been proposed to purchase Ultra portable hand-held digital medical X-ray machine, Deep tissue Laser therapy machine to treat mastitis, Ultrasound Scanner for Veterinary Dispensaries and 17 video aided artificial insemination equipment for the treatment of animals and birds, at an estimated cost of ₹1 crore. The life saving veterinary medicines, de-worming medicines and vaccines will be purchased at an estimated cost of ₹1 crore under ASCAD (Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease) scheme of the Central Government.

36. Under Rashtriya Gokul Mission scheme, the population of female calves will be increased by using sex sorted semen and the livelihood of farmers in a better position. In order to increase the revenue of the livestock farmers, my Government will bear the

premium amount payable by the farmers excluding the subsidy provided by the Central Government. Likewise, under Invitro Fertilization (Embryo) scheme also, my Government will bear an amount of ₹16,000 for each IVF embryos excluding the subsidy provided by the Central Government.

37. The National Livelihood Mission is giving 50% subsidy to a farmer to set up a goat farm with 100 female goats and 5 male goats. My Government will bear 90% of the share (₹9 lakh) to Scheduled Caste farmers and 50% share (₹5 lakh) to others.

38. An amount of ₹77.56 crore has been allocated for Animal Husbandry in 2023-24.

ART AND CULTURE

39. The Construction of "Civil Station" at Bharathiar Palkalaikoodam in Ariankuppam will be initiated at a cost of ₹9.36 crores. Renovation/Maintenance works will be taken up in

Mahakavi Bharathiar Memorial Museum and Research Centre, Pavendar Bharathidasan Memorial Museum-*cum*- Research Centre, Mahakavi Bharathiar Manimandapam, Ariyankuppam, Keezhur Monument and Thiagi Makkal Thalaivar V. Subbiah - Tmt. Saraswathi Subbiah Memorial, Social, Scientific Literary Research Centre and Library.

40. It is proposed to conduct “World Tamil Conference” in Puducherry with the participation of Tamil scholars for promotion of Tamil in various countries. “Tamil Wing” will be implemented again. A national conference will be conducted on behalf of 150th Birth Anniversary of Aurobindo Gosh to propagate the thoughts, philosophy, research on yoga, literature. On the death Centenary anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Conferences and events will be conducted in order to honour his services to Tamil society.

41. I am happy to announce that financial assistance will be awarded as fellowship to research scholars. in order to support the M.Phil. and Ph.D. students, those who are in the field of Art and Culture.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

42. At present the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs is functioning in the first floor of the building belonging to Excise Department and it is very difficult for the differently abled persons and old age people to approach the office to get their services. Therefore, it is proposed to shift the existing Department to a suitable place by constructing a new building. In order to avoid convergence of public to a centralized point, it is proposed to offer all the services through online.

43. An amount of ₹246.82 crore has been allocated for Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs in 2023-24.

CO-OPERATION

44. I am happy to share with the Hon'ble Members of this august House that my Government will take all possible efforts to strengthen co-operative bodies. Steps will be taken to computerize all the Co-operative Societies in order to fulfill their task in an efficient and effective manner.

45. 6,000 Sex Sorted Semen straws will be purchased to cover the members of the Primary Milk Cooperative Societies, to produce 2,000 high yielding calves at the cost of ₹40.50 lakhs. It is proposed to inseminate IVF to 1,000 cows belonging to the members of Primary Milk Co-operative Societies at cost of ₹2.10 crore, of which, State Share amounts to ₹1.60 crore and ₹50 lakh as Central Share.

46. Under the scheme of "Investment Assistance to Co-operatives for Business Expansion, new business activities and better performance", it is proposed to

supply cattle feed at 75% subsidized rate to the milk pouring members of Milk Co-operative Societies, who supplies milk to Ponlait.

REVENUE

47. In respect of formation of four laning road covering 10 Villages from Villupuram - Puducherry - Cuddalore - Nagapattinam section of NH-45A in the State of Tamil Nadu / Union Territory of Puducherry, compensation of ₹ 35.10 crores will be disbursed to the land owners which includes the compensation for trees and structures in the acquired land.

48. For the project of four laning road from Mamallapuram- Puducherry section of NH-332A by covering Villages *viz.,* Sellipet, Thutipet and Thiruvandarkoil, lands have been identified and acquired during the current year. Further, in the current financial year land will be acquired for the Thillaiyadi Vallimai High School functioning at Kadirkamam.

JAILS

49. Land has been acquired in Akkaraivattam Revenue Village, Karaikal towards construction of District Jail. Action will be initiated to construct the building at the estimated cost of ₹80 crore.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

50. Hon'ble Members are aware that School Education plays a major role for economic development and improvement of societies with the help of educated students. For the development of School Education, the usual welfare measures will be extended to student population like free supply of text books, note books, uniforms, breakfast, mid-day meals and scholarship.

51. I am happy to state that the Ministry of Education has announced "Swach Vidyalaya Puraskar Award" in which Union Territory of Puducherry had won 6 Awards and stands at 2nd place. Out of the

6 Awards won, 5 were won by Government Schools and 1 was won by Private School. In the South India Science Fair, 2023 held in January, 2023 at Kerala, a team of School Students from Puducherry won 1st prize. In Teachers category, a teacher has also won the 1st prize.

52. In order to improve the quality of the schools throughout India, a scheme named "Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India" was implemented. Under this scheme, 12 schools from our Union Territory of Puducherry have been selected. The infrastructure of these 12 schools will be upgraded with the grant of ₹2 crore released to each school per year with over all allocation of ₹24 crore under the Central & State Share (60:40).

53. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, it is proposed to establish "Vidhya Sameeksha Kendra" with an estimated cost of ₹2.00 crore for accessing

and monitor teaching ability of teachers and learning outcomes of the students. In order to improve the educational system, issuing laptops to the students at free of cost in all Government as well as Government aided schools. Further, this scheme will be continued in the forthcoming years also. In order to improve the nutritious diet of the school students, Millets Snacks will be provided at evening.

54. In order to improve the quality of education, it is proposed to switch over all Government Schools to CBSE pattern from classes VI to XII. Further, it is also proposed to improve the infrastructure facilities of Sports Stadium situated in Lawspet, Thavalakuppam, Bahoor in Puducherry region and at Kankalapeta in Yanam region. I am happy to announce to extend the 7th Central Pay Commission benefits to the teaching staff in all these Government Aided Schools.

55. An amount of ₹924.68 crore has been allocated for School Education in 2023-24.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

56. Hon'ble Members will admit that acquiring Higher and Technical education will allow the student community to feel more confident in using emerging technologies and helps to compete in the prevailing scenario. Hence, my Government is extending full support to improve Higher and Technical Education in this Territory.

57. To give financial support to the students who are pursuing Higher education *viz.,* Medical, Engineering and Nursing courses, ₹ 29.70 crore has been allotted under the scheme Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance. This scheme will be extended to the students gets admitted to the Dental Science, Veterinary Science, Arts, Science, Agriculture, Law, *etc.,* through CENTAC. The Co-operative B.Ed. College presently functioning under the control of Co-operative Department will be henceforth function under the Directorate of Higher and Technical Education.

58. Under up-gradation of Pondicherry Engineering College into Puducherry Technical University, it is proposed to construct one Academic Block in Puducherry Technological University with an estimated amount of ₹11.40 crore. It is proposed to carry out development of research activities in Kanchi Mamunivar Centre for Post Graduate Studies, Puducherry at a cost of ₹2.50 crore. Further, it is also proposed to construct Laboratories in Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Karaikal with an estimated amount of ₹7 crore.

59. An amount of ₹312.27 crore has been allocated for Higher and Technical Education in 2023-24.

ELECTRICITY

60. In order to conduct the statutory inspections more effectively, the Licensing Board will start its functioning in the ensuing financial year 2023-24 onwards.

61. It is proposed to strengthen the existing Distribution system networks at a cost of ₹ 83.14 crores by way of various system improvement works in the Union Territory of Puducherry *viz.,* (i) 18 cKms of lengthy and overloaded feeders to be segregated; (ii) 30 cKms of feeder to be segregated and bifurication of Agriculture load; (iii) replacement of 183 ckms old and frayed conductors in HT/LT lines; (iv) 47 Kms of LT overhead line to be converted into Under Ground Cable; (v) 102 Kms of bare conductors with Aerial Bunched cables to be converted; (vi) use of 134 energy efficient Distribution Transformer; (vii) implementation of 24 High voltage Distribution system with provision of DTs and (viii) provision of 13 Capacitor Banks in Sub-stations. The works will be executed on Turnkey basis through e-tender and around 50% of the works will be completed in financial year 2023-24.

62. Under Optical Ground Wire Scheme, it is proposed to provide reliable communication at 132 KV and above Sub-stations in this Administration.

The project cost is ₹4.11 crore, out of which ₹1.18 crore has been sanctioned as Grant from Government of India and the balance of ₹2.93 crore to be borne by this Administration.

63. The process of acquisition of land for establishing two 25MVA transformers of 110/22KV Gas Insulated Sub-stations at Lawspet and Thavalakuppam has been initiated. It is proposed to augment the existing capacity of Power Transformers at Villianur, Kalapet, Korkadu, Thirubuvanai and Thethampakkam Sub-stations for a total project cost of ₹29.92 crore with M/s. PGCIL and the work will be expected to be completed within June 2024. Similarly, M/s. PGCIL will be entrusted to lay 110KV UG Cable from Vengata Nagar 110/22-11KV Substation to 110/22KV JIPMER Gas Insulated Substation at a total project cost of ₹21.64 crore.

64. To strengthen the machineries under Capital schemes, it is proposed to execute (i) energization and enhancement of 50 nos. of new distribution

transformers of various ratings; (ii) erection of 15 Kms. of HT lines and 50 Kms of LT Lines and to strengthen 5 Kms. of existing HT lines and 15 Kms. of existing LT lines; (iii) to effect 10 numbers of HT Industrial services, 50 numbers of LT Industrial services, 40 numbers of Agricultural pump sets, 12,000 numbers of Domestic Services, 1,700 numbers of Commercial Services and 250 numbers of new street lights; (iv) Under Cable Conversion works, it is proposed to lay 5 Kms. of HT and LT UG Cables and to convert 50 numbers of LT Over head services into UG cable system and (v) 10,000 numbers of defective and Struck-up Electro Mechanical Meters are proposed to be converted into Electro Static Meters.

65. In order to ensure energy savings, necessary action will be taken to replace all the existing conventional street lights in the Union Territory of Puducherry into energy efficient LED Street Lights at a cost of ₹ 4.50 crore during the current financial year.

66. An amount of ₹1,946.00 crore has been allocated for Electricity Department in 2023-24.

FIRE SERVICE

67. Hon'ble Members are well aware that the task of fire service personnel to control and save the public and their properties at the time of cause of fire plays a vital role. Hence, my Government is proposed to modernize the department with all infrastructure facilities.

68. It is proposed to acquire land for setting up of new Fire Service Stations at Puducherry, Villianur, Thavalakuppam and Lingareddipalayam. Further, it is proposed to construct building for new Fire Service Stations at Karayambuthur in Puducherry and T.R. Pattinam in Karaikal.

69. In order to modernize this department further, it is proposed to procure 54 meters of Sky Lift, Fire unit service equipments *viz.,* concrete cutters, Hydraulic

jacks, Air Compressor, Fire Entry suits, insect protection suits, fire proximity suits, chemicals suits, laptop with projector system and Digital Camera for fire prevention wing and Fire training centre.

70. An amount of ₹33.12 crore has been allocated for Fire Services in 2023-24.

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

71. It is a proven fact that the Fisheries sector plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the country by providing livelihood to large number of fishers, generating employment opportunities in allied sectors and ensuring nutritional security. My Government is very keen to improve their life quality and extending various welfare measures.

72. As a part of it, considering the welfare of fishers of age group 70-79 years, it is proposed to increase the quantum of Old Age Pension from

₹ 3,000 to ₹ 3,500. Due to increase of old age pension 2,000 old age fishermen will be benefitted and a sum of ₹ 1.20 crore has been additionally allotted in the Budget.

73. Basic infrastructures such as drinking water, road and drainage facilities will be provided to the Tsunami quarters constructed in Puducherry and Karaikal, with assistance from NABARD, during this financial year. This will be taken up as one coastal village in one constituency basis, for ₹ 1 crore each to 13 coastal villages, thus totalling to ₹ 13 crores.

74. Diesel for fishing purpose will be supplied to all registered fishing crafts in the Union Territory of Puducherry with a subsidy of ₹ 12 per litre (including spot exemption of VAT). It is proposed to provide 50% subsidy to the 50 registered motorized fishing crafts boat owners up to a maximum of ₹ 40,000 for

replacement of Out Board Motor Engines having capacity up to 12 HP-OMB. A sum of ₹ 20 lakh is proposed in the Budget.

75. In order to support traditional fishermen, it is proposed to supply nets and twine worth up to a maximum ₹ 5,000 with 50% subsidy to 2,000 fishermen of Registered Motorised crafts at a cost of ₹ 1 crore. It is proposed to grant financial assistance for providing @ 50% subsidy to the maximum value of ₹ 50,000 *i.e.,* ₹ 25,000 for Nets, ₹ 15,000 for Rope and ₹ 10,000 for Twine to 500 Registered Mechanised Fishing Vessel for which a sum of ₹ 2.50 crores.

76. My Government desires to extend financial assistance for fishermen students who are pursuing higher studies selected through CENTAC on par with that of the financial assistance as is being extended in Adi-Dravidar Welfare Department.

77. Beneficiary contribution for procurement of transponders / communication devices to registered boat owners under PMMSY scheme will be met out under the U.T. scheme "Supply of Fishery Requisites" and an additional amount of ₹1 core will be earmarked for the benefit of 500 boat owners. It is proposed to enhance fish production, stocking of 2 lakh fingerlings in the lakes of Union Territory of Puducherry covering 200 Ha. A Detailed Project Report at an estimated cost of ₹6 lakh will be submitted to the Central Government to get financial assistance for the estimated amount.

78. It is proposed to form two Fish Farmers Producers organizations in the Union Territory of Puducherry to economically empower fishers and fish farmers. In order to procure Deep Sea Fishing Vessel for the benefit of three fishermen, request will be made to the Government of India for the financial assistance amounting to ₹1.68 crore.

79. It is proposed to grant subsidy to a tune of ₹1.38 lakh to 320 fishermen for procurement of safety kits for their traditional and motorized crafts. It is also proposed to grant financial assistance to a tune of ₹1.10 crore to registered traditional and mechanized boats of 50 fishermen for replacement of fishing boats, *etc.*

80. To provide alternative livelihood to fishermen, it is proposed to conduct pilot study for sea weed culture in four identified potential sites at an estimated cost of ₹44.00 lakh through CMFRI. To restore the fishing grounds, augment marine fish production and promote sustainable fisheries and livelihoods, it is proposed to deploy 14 units of artificial reef each ₹31 lakh to a tune of ₹3.44 crore in the coastal area of Union Territory of Puducherry with financial assistance from the Government of India.

81. Action will be initiated to construct a Tsunami memorial at Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹40.00 lakh. It is proposed to establish smart fishing

village in the Union Territory of Puducherry to a tune of ₹100 crore with financial assistance from Government of India. It is proposed to establish Puducherry Digital Aquarium and Zoo Entertainment Park under the sea to a tune of ₹42 crore in Puducherry with financial assistance from Government of India. Fish processing business promotion centre with a financial implication of ₹5 crore will be taken up in collaboration with Marine Products Exports Development Authority, Cochin.

82. An amount of ₹108.34 crore has been allocated for Fisheries Department in 2023-24.

HEALTH

83. It is one of the primary goal of this Government is to provide Speciality Medical Services to all the people of this Union Territory. As a step to achieve the goal, various health infrastructure developments are being carried out in Health institutions. Required equipments will be procured in

Government General Hospital, Puducherry to improve the existing infrastructure facilities which includes MRI Scan machine, Molecular Virology Laboratory, Automated ELISA processing System. Under National Organ Transplant programme of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it is proposed to establish a transplant centre at a cost of ₹ 1.80 crore. Proposal to construct a new building for Trauma care unit of Government General Hospital, Puducherry is under process. 4 numbers of Haemodialysis Machine Fresenious and infrastructure facilities will be upgraded in Government General Hospital, Karaikal. A Generator and Incubator will be purchased for Government General Hospital, Mahe.

84. The renovation and repair works will be taken up at The General Hospital, Yanam. The office room of Government General Hospital at Yanam will be converted into fully equipped modern laboratory to accommodate RNTCP, AIDS Control , Filaria, Malaria, IDSP, Pathology laboratory, micro-biology and a Blood storage unit will be setup.

85. Primary Health Centre, Mudaliarpet will be renovated. Primary Health Centre will be set up at Sandhai Pudukkuppam village. 500MA X-ray Unit, three Fully Automated Blood Cell Counter and Shortwave Diathermy will be procured at a cost of ₹ 20 lakh to the Community Health Centre, Mannadipet.

86. It is proposed to renovate RCC roofs, installation of fire extinguisher and purchase of ECG machine in the Community Health Centre, Thirunallar, Karaikal. Further, it is proposed to construct Emergency Ward in Casualty at Community Health Centre, Palloor, Mahe and seminar hall of the Hospital will be renovated.

87. In order to provide uninterrupted power supply to the Government Pharmacy, Puducherry, it is proposed to purchase three Generator to the cold storage of life saving medicine. It is also proposed to construct an Ayurvedic medicine Manufacturing Unit.

In order to manage all fatal viral diseases, it is proposed to set up a diagnostic molecular virology laboratory and upgrade of molecular diagnostic laboratory as per the infection control measures.

88. It is proposed to set up a comprehensive skill laboratory for Anatomy, Orthopedics and other departments at a project cost of ₹51 crore in Indira Gandhi Medical College & Research Institute by availing loan assistance from Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Further, it is proposed to upgrade the infrastructure facilities in Mahatma Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Dental Science as per Indian Dental Association guidelines at a project cost of ₹27.21 crore by availing loan from SIDBI.

89. In order to extend medical facilities to the ESI beneficiaries, it is proposed to setup sub centre in Ariyankuppam, along with services of two Doctors; and empanel some private hospitals in Puducherry region to provide secondary care medical treatment.

90. Further, non-communicable diseases are in an increasing trend day by day. Mainly Diabetes, Hypertension and Cancer. More specifically, Cancer disease is diagnosed only at last stage. Early screening is the important in identifying the Cancer. As a step of early screening, screening for women for cervical Cancer will be set up at all the health and wellness centre thereby all married women above 30 years of age will be screened for cervical Cancer.

91. An amount of ₹1,042.64 crore has been allocated for Health Department in 2023-24.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

92. Hon'ble Members admit that emerging technologies are reshaping the service delivery approach in governance. In order to improve ease of living, my Government has proposed to restructure and strengthen the existing Institutes with digital infrastructures.

93. Puducherry e-Governance Society was established in the year 2006 to implement the e-Governance schemes in a speedy and time bound manner. In the era of emerging technologies, the Government propose to restructure the Puducherry e-Governance Society. IT skilled manpower requirements for the Departments and societies will be provided through e-Governance Society. Software and Mobile applications for the departments and societies will also be developed and maintained by e-Governance Society.

94. In order to create employment opportunities to youth, an “IT PARK” will be established in the Union Territory of Puducherry with the assistance of Software Technology Park of India. Under Digital Internship Scheme, 50 fresh engineering graduates will be given internship with remuneration to secure practical work Experience in ICT applications and emerging technologies under the guidance of qualified and experienced mentors. In order to implement the scheme a sum of ₹1 crore is being allotted.

95. 72 different types of services in 11 departments, *viz.,* income certificate, community certificate, *etc.,* are provided through District Portal in accordance with simplified and upgraded emerging technologies.

96. A detailed report on restructuring of Data centre and utilization of cloud computing is prepared in view of emerging technologies and cyber security. Puducherry State Data Centre will be restructured to optimise the cost of hosting online applications, data and servers *etc.,* Funds will be sought from Government of India.

97. It is essential to provide high-speed internet connectivity to all government offices and ensure cyber security at the same time. It is also proposed to prepare a report on restructuring Puducherry State Wide Area Network in view of design and technological changes in software and hardware with the financial assistance from the Government of India.

98. An amount of ₹16.78 crore has been allocated for Information Technology in 2023-24.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

99. The Department will take steps to digitalize all the documents relating to idols, gold and silver ornaments and other movable properties of all the temples coming under the purview of this Department and will be uploaded in the portal for the information of the public. Further, the details of immovable properties will be collected and action will also be taken to realize fair rent for the leased out properties of temple *viz.,* land, buildings and shops, so as to augment the revenue resources of the temples.

100. In order to celebrate the Maha Pushkarani festival in Sri Kamatchi Sametha Sri Gangaivaraga Nadheeshwarar Temple, Thirukanji, Villianur, a sum of ₹1.66 crore has been allotted and works are under progress. Compound wall and River steps at Sri Kasi Viswanatha Temple, Thirukanji will be constructed.

INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

101. It is proposed to notify Revised Industrial Policy 2023 with attractive incentives.

102. It is proposed to enact Puducherry Micro Small & Medium Enterprises Act, to grant exempt from getting approvals and inspections for a period of three years from the date of commencement of business.

103. Stipend to trainees who are imparting technical training through District Industries Centre have not been enhanced for the last 15 years. Considering the inflation rate and economic position, it is proposed to enhance the stipend three times to all the trainees undergoing under various discipline. The poor students undergoing industrial training will benefit from this enhancement.

LABOUR WELFARE

104. In order to impart quality skill training and convergence of skill development programs conducted

by the other line departments, it is proposed to establish a separate Department *viz.,* "Skill Development and Entrepreneurship".

105. With an intention to improve the quality of training and enhance the learning ability, it is proposed to establish high quality smart classrooms in all Government Industrial Training Institutes.

106. In view of horizontal and upward mobility of ITI trainees to obtain equivalence of public examination certificates so as to pursue higher education, it is proposed to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

107. In order to increase the enrolment of trainees in Government ITIs and facilitating the basic needs of the students belonging to economically weaker sections, it is proposed to enhance the monthly Stipend and merit scholarship of the trainees to ₹ 1,000. The breakfast and mid-day meals scheme

implemented in the Education Department, Puducherry will be extended to all Government Industrial Training Institutes functioning under Labour Department. By this, 1912 students will be benefitted.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

108. Hon'ble Members are aware that the local body plays a vital role in maintenance of cleanliness in Puducherry. My Government has taken steps to implement Solid Waste Management, as per rules laid down in Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

109. In order to implement the Integrated Solid Waste Management in all Commune Panchayats of Puducherry, Karaikal and Karaikal Municipality, a sum of ₹ 36.58 crore have been allotted and work order have been issued. Similarly, to re-use and re-cycling of the garbage in Puducherry and Karaikal region, tender have been floated. Necessary action is being taken to dispose of the garbage through bio-mining in Yanam region.

110. Under AMRUT 1.0, various infrastructural activities *viz.,* augmentation of water supply in Nainarmandapam, Sudhana Nagar, Thengaithittu, Kattamanikuppam are under progress. Under "Swachh Bharath Mission", it is proposed to undertake the works related to construction of Individual Household Latrines, Solid Water Management and re-cycling of used water at an estimated amount of ₹ 98.80 crores.

111. Under MLA-Local Area Development Scheme, ₹ 2 Crore for each Member of Legislative Assembly has been allotted to undertake various basic infrastructural work.

SMART CITY

112. Puducherry SMART City Development Limited is implementing various projects in different sectors under SMART City Mission launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

113. Under SMART City mission, at an estimated amount of ₹55.90 crore (i) Establishment of Mini Sports stadium at Anna Thidal; (ii) Construction of 220 dwelling units for Economically Weaker Section at Chinnayapuram; and (iii) Conversion of transformer works in urban areas are under progress.

114. For various works amounting to ₹98.56 crore are proposed to be carried out through Public Works Department: (i) Construction of PCC drain for the Mettu Vaikkal from Sivaji Nagar to NH 45 road crossing culvert at Gundu Salai road junction at Ellaipillaichavady, Puducherry; (ii) Construction of PCC drain for Olandai surplus course starting from downstream of railway culvert P.97 to upstream of ECR culvert near Marapalam junction, Puducherry; (iii) Construction of U type storm water drain from olandai surplus course to Murungapakkam and construction of feeder channel of Olandai & Murungapakkam, Puducherry; (iv) Construction of RCC drain in near Olandai surplus area near East road; (v) Improvements of Uppar drain between Maraimalai

Adigal Salai Junction and Vanarapet Foot Bridge; (vi) Construction of Multi-storeyed buildings at Kumaragurupallam and (vii) Renovation of School buildings.

115. Further, tenders have been called for and work order issued for works amounting to ₹ 786.65 crore:-

(i) Integrated Command and Control Centre will be established in Department of Revenue and Disaster Management at project cost of ₹ 170.11 crore and work order had been issued.

(ii) It is proposed to procure 70 e-Rickshaws for ₹ 96 lakh through Transport Department. Further, it is also proposed to procure 25 Smart buses for public transportation with an estimated amount of ₹ 26.25 crore.

(iii) National Building Construction Corporation have been entrusted to carry out works to the tune of ₹ 313.80 crore *viz.,* Improvement of Botanical

Garden, Eco-Tourism within the urban forest area in Swadeshi Mill, Improvement of Grand Canal and pavement of footpath for 3 km, Construction of Railway over Bridge at Cuddalore road, Junction Improvements at Marapalam Junction, Reconstruction of Pudumai building on the Beach road, Affordable Housing project at Attupatti for economically weaker sections, Improvement of Goubert Market (Big market), Construction of new Smart Integrated Bus Terminus and improvement of existing Bus Stand.

(iv) The Public Works Department have been entrusted works amounting to ₹ 26.84 crore *viz.,* Restoration of Pensionnat de Jeunes Filles School building ; Augmentation of existing Pump Station in Kuruchikuppam & Lal bahadur Sasthri Street; to install flow meters in all deep bore wells in urban and adjacent areas, setting up of Urban Entertainment village at Old port.

(v) Further, tenders have been called for the following works through Public Works Department, works relating to underground sewerage in Urban areas, Transmission

and pumping of recycled water to public spaces and Industries, Installation of sewerage treatment plant at Lawspet and Dubrayapet, distribution of drinking water round-o-clock in urban and adjoining areas, laying of pedestrian path to differently abled persons, laying of Cycle Track for 10.3 km length.

POLICE

116. The motto of my Government is to accord top priority to maintain Law and Order and thereby ensure peace and social harmony in the Union Territory of Puducherry. In order to strengthen the existing protection, a new Anti Human Trafficking Unit will be set-up at an estimated amount of ₹15 lakhs. Further, it is proposed to purchase vehicles *viz.* Two Wheelers and Four Wheelers which includes one Jammer Vehicle at an estimated cost of ₹5.50 crore.

117. In order to strengthen the infrastructure, it is proposed to undertake civil works *viz.,* Renovation of DGP Office and SSP Office at Puducherry;

Strengthening of Armory building situated at Gorimedu Police Complex; Construction of three storied Office building with parking facilities in the Ground floor in the place of old Grand Bazaar Police Station at Nehru Street; Renovation of all Police Stations at Puducherry; Demolition of Type-I Quarters and construction of Type-V and Type VI Quarters at Shanmugapuram Police Complex, Puducherry.

118. Construction of residential Quarters to SSP and SPs at Karaikal and Construction of SP Office-*cum*-VIP suite at Mahe. Further, it is proposed to purchase additional Cyber security tools in connection with the prevention of Cyber Crime against Women and Children.

119. In order to improve the coastal security, it is proposed to procure life saving equipments like Life Jackets, Life Buoys at a cost of ₹ 20.51 lakh.

120. An amount of ₹ 376.63 crore has been allocated for Police Department in 2023-24.

PORT

121. Revival of commercial cargo handling operation and small Ship repair activities will be resumed at Pondicherry Port. Dredging alongside the Jetty of Puducherry Fishing harbour will be taken up. Installation of Navigational Aids at Pondicherry Port and Construction of Barrier between Uppar drainage channel and navigational channel under "Sagarmala" Scheme will be commenced.

PUBLIC WORKS

122. Hon'ble Members are well aware that Infrastructure development is important for sustained economic growth of this Union Territory. Under comprehensive water supply scheme, ₹122.26 crore is earmarked to carry out water supply to Pillaichavady, Chinnakalapet, Thattanchavady, Tagore Nagar, Jeevanandapuram, Kottupalayam, Subbaiah Nagar, Muthialpet, Sanjeevi Nagar, Alankuppam, Ariyankuppam and Veerampattinam areas.

123. At an estimated cost of ₹2.12 crore, the work laying water pipe for pumping from Northern bank of Chunnambar River to R.K Nagar OHT at Ariyankuppam. It is proposed to replace the existing damaged water supply distribution line and restoration of road at Kakayenthope village in Ariyankuppam at an estimated amount of ₹1.67 crore. It is proposed to procure accessories for ₹2.52 crore under Safai Mithra Karamchari Suraksha Programme. The expansion of Airport is necessitated to shift the compound wall, laying of road and reconstruction of pumping Station compound wall at Sewage Farm, Karuvadikuppam, Lawspet with an estimated amount of ₹8.54 crore.

124. Under Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme, augmentation of water supply will be carried out with an estimated amount of ₹28.27 crore covering the areas *viz.,* Konerikuppam, Ulavaikal, Agaram, Thirukanji, Thirubuvanai Palayam, Madagadipet Palayam, Mannadipet, Sompet and Mutrampet in Puducherry region, Nedungadu, Akkampet, T.R.Pattinam and Mudalimedu village in Karaikal region.

125. By availing loan from NABARD to a tune of ₹ 58.75 crore, augmentation of water supply will be done in Mannadipet, Vinayagampet, Nettapakkam, Kariyamanickam, Kalmandapam, Villianur-Keezhur, Sooramangalam, Kanniakoil in Puducherry region and Kovilpathu, T.R.Pattinam in Karaikal region. Further, construction of Pillaiyarkuppam Check dam across the river Sankaraparani near Sellipet village with an estimated amount of ₹ 20.40 crore and Construction of single lane bridge across Bahour surplus water and formation of tank bund road around Bahour tank will also be executed at an estimated amount of ₹ 8.18 crore.

126. Under AMRUT programme, ₹ 175.07 crore is earmarked for augmentation of water supply system for Sudhana Nagar, Dr.Radhakrishnan Nagar, Kattamanikuppam and Rainbow Nagar in Puducherry region Nehru Nagar and Thalatheru in Karaikal region. Further, construction of sewage treatment plant at Lawspet, Dubrayapet and across Sankaraparani River in Villianur and Installation of STPs at Arasalar River in Karaikal.

127. Building works amounting in total of ₹643.78 crore will be taken up for various departments *viz.,* Health, School and Higher Education, Port, National law university, Judiciary, residential quarters for IAS Officer, RAJ NIVAS, Jail. Further, a study on the feasibility of constructing a fly over from Vambakeerapalayam to Chinna Veerampattinam will be made.

128. Under Roads & Bridges sector, 92 Road Works at various places throughout the Union Territory of Puducherry, construction and improvements of drainage system, providing platform, construction of RoB and limited use subways, Riverside walkway at Mahe will be executed with an estimated cost of ₹381.23 crore including NABARD loan of ₹66.65 crore. Moreover, it is proposed to complete the construction of bridge work on Uppar drain for which necessary fund provision has been allotted.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

129. At present each Department is preparing their own Detailed Project Report to implement their projects. In order to avoid delay in implementation

and to streamline the same, it is proposed to setup a separate Cell in the Planning and Research Department. The foremost task of the Cell is to segregate all the projects received from various Departments and act as Nodal Department for implementation, pave the way to get loan from Financial Institutions and Government of India (CSS & CS).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

130. Under the guidance of the Central Government, the Department of Science, Technology and Environment has taken steps towards research works relating to climate change, organizing capacity building and awareness program to diverse stakeholders and creation of web based knowledge portal on climate change and mainstreaming climate change in the Planning and Development process in this Administration.

131. This Department will implement a project on Development of Eco-friendly beaches with the aim of promoting tourism with minimum impact on the environment. Shoreline of Puducherry will be developed through Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. Further, action will be taken to maintain beaches and to protect the seashore from erosion. It is proposed to establish Common Effluent Treatment Plant at Sedarapet and Thirukkanur areas in Puducherry.

132. For implementing Single Use Plastic Ban effectively and reducing plastic menace, cloth bag vending machines and plastic bottles crusher machines will be installed at prominent public places. This will help in reducing the volume of plastic waste reaching the landfills and promote proper recycling of plastic bottles. The crushed plastic waste will be utilized for laying plastic roads. A mobile vehicular emission monitoring van with sophisticated equipment for regulating vehicular air pollution will be purchased.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

133. My Government is taking all steps for the development activities in the urban and rural areas of Union Territory of Puducherry. In connection with the above, and as a part of the developmental activities, it is proposed to carry out (i) Improvements to Pudhu Nagar main road, Reddiyarpalayam at ₹18.50 lakh, (ii) Providing Cement Concrete to link road between Nagooranthottam road and Beach road at South Street, Periya Veerampattinam, Ariyankuppam at ₹18.00 lakh, (iii) Formation of internal roads in LGR Layout at Kanchipuram, Kovilpathu, Karaikal at ₹39.30 lakh. (iv) Improvements to the internal roads with drain at Anitha Nagar, Mudaliarpet at ₹59.40 lakh, (v) Improvements to the internal roads and development of park at Kann Doctor Thottam, Puducherry at ₹45.00 lakh, (vi) Improvements and special repair works to tenement block at koilpathu, Karaikal at ₹20.30 lakh, and (vii) Improvements to the existing drain at Beach road and providing cement

concrete pavement to lane behind Achuthan Ananthan Memorial Library and reading room at Pandakal, Mahe at ₹ 26.95 lakh are proposed to be carried out.

134. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana(Urban) scheme, additionally 2,500 Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) houses will be completed. Further, Awareness programmes will be conducted to motivate the non-starter beneficiaries for commencement and completion of house. Financial assistance will be disbursed towards 2nd and 3rd installment to 1,200 beneficiaries under Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Centenary Housing scheme to complete their houses in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions.

135. Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Centenary Housing scheme, one of the successful scheme implemented in the Union Territory will be resumed again. An amount of ₹ 3.50 lakh will be released by the Puducherry Slum Clearance Board to the beneficiaries who have not availed the benefits under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana(Urban) scheme. Further,

an amount of ₹5 lakh will be released for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries residing in huts.

136. Action will be taken to issue permission through online to facilitate the applicants for other category of buildings such as Special buildings, Industrial buildings and Multi-storied buildings by making necessary amendments in the relevant Act.

TOURISM

137. It is well known that arrival of domestic and international tourist to all regions of Union Territory of Puducherry is gradually booming now-a-days and it helps to improve the economic growth directly as well as indirectly. Knowing the necessity to develop further more avenues to create various attractive tourism activities. My Government is happy to prepare the projects suitable to Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and PRASAD scheme for which, Puducherry and Karaikal have been selected by Ministry of Tourism.

138. In Puducherry & Karaikal, the temples having traditional and spiritual importance will be taken for development so as to attract the tourists and public. It is proposed to undertake the developmental activities of the temples in Puducherry region:- Sri Kathirvel Swamy Temple, Kathirkamam, Sri Thenkalai Varadaraja Perumal Temple, Villianur, Madha Koil, Villianur, Sri Sengazhuneer Amman Temple at Veerampattinam, Sri Murugan Temple at Kalapet, Sri Kuthandavar Temple,Pathukannu, Pillayarkuppam, Sri Pidari Meenatchi Amman Temple, Thondamanatham, Sri Thenkalai Varadaraja Perumal Temple at Muthialpet, Sri Guru Sithanandasamy temple at Karuvadikuppam; renovation of Aayi Kulam at Mutharaiyarpalayam, Sri Moolanatha Samy Temple at Bahour, Ethka Mosque at Nellithope, Sri Kasi Viswanathar temple at Odiampet, Sri Ambalathaadi Appar Koil at Embalam village, Sivan temple, Vadhanur, Sithar Temple, Sompet, Sivan Temple, Manalipet. Karaikal Region: Sri Ekambareswarer Temple, Sethur, Sri Aimboothanathar Temple, Neravy, Ammaiyar Temple,

Karaikal, Sri Parvatheeswarar Temple, Kovilpathu, Sri Thirumeni Azhagar Swamy Temple, Thiruvettakudy, Sri Varadaraja Perumal Temple, Varichikudy, Sri Venkadesa Perumal Temple, T.R. Pattinam, Sir Dharbaranyeswarar Temple, Thirunallar, Big Mosque and the iconic religious places in Karaikal and pilgrim facilities, landscape, beautification. Consultant will be engaged towards preparation of Detailed Project Report and the same will be submitted to the Government of India for financial assistance.

139. Sound, Light & Multimedia shows will be conducted in Puducherry & Karaikal regions. It is proposed to develop Bahour lake, Mullodai Lagoon, Kanakan Lake, Oussudu Lake and Check dam at Chunnambar, Ariyankuppam lake for encouraging Eco Tourism activities. Continuous efforts are being taken by this Government to develop 100 acres of land available at seashore at Manapet Village for establishing Mega Tourism Projects and it is proposed to develop (i) Theme Parks (ii) Resorts (iii) Convention

Centres (iv) Adventure Sports *etc.,* with PPP mode and for which consultant will be engaged towards preparation of Detailed Project Report.

140. 10 Years perspective 'Tourism Plan' will be developed for promoting tourism in Union Territory of Puducherry for creating employment opportunities to 5,000 youths in the next 5 years. The perspective plan will have the orientation on infrastructure development, accommodation sector, skill development, theme parks, adventure activities, water sports, beach activities, temple tourism, branding of destination *etc.* Further, in order to create awareness among students about Tourism, especially for the welfare of the rural students, a Student Tourism Club will be created in all schools.

TRANSPORT

141. A Vehicle Scrapping Policy for the Union Territory of Puducherry will be framed on the basis of the Motor Vehicles (Registration and functions of

vehicles scrapping facility amendments) Rules, 2022 notified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India. This will be framed to scrap the motor vehicles which are more than 15 years old with the objectives to reduce the pollutants & consumption of fuel and to re-cycle the scrapped vehicle parts. Some beneficiary measures like subsidy on motor tax payable on purchase of new vehicle, license for the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) *etc.,* will be incorporated in the policy to encourage the people to scrap their 15 years old motor vehicles.

142. In order to replace the old fleet and to improve mobility in urban areas and inter-state routes, Puducherry Road Transport Corporation has invited e-tenders to procure 50 electric and 50 Diesel Buses. These buses will be operated soon. In addition to this, new bus body for 10 existing buses will be constructed and put into operation.

143. The online Automatic Fare Collection Machines will be brought into use by the PRTC and National Common Mobility Card will be introduced to public for payment of ticket fare through these machines. In order to reduce the air pollutions and promote greener vehicles, the Puducherry Electric Mobility Policy will be notified and through this policy the subsidies for purchase of e-Vehicles by the public will be provided to reduce the financial burden of the purchases with an approximate amount of ₹ 10 crore per year. This will be implemented for the next four financial years (2023-24 to 2026-27).

144. In order to reduce the road accidents and fatalities in Puducherry, in line with the directions of Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, the Transport Department in co-ordination with Traffic Police and Public Works Department will improve road safety infrastructure apart from creating road safety awareness and enforcement of road regulations.

ADI DRAVIDAR WELFARE AND SCHEDULED TRIBES WELFARE

145. Hon'ble Members are well aware that my Government is always pay special attention in improving the socio-economic development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Community. An amount of ₹ 441 crore has been earmarked under SCP component this year.

146. As a part of welfare measures over and above the existing privileges, my Government proposed to issue free bus pass to SC women to perform local journey in their respective region in the buses plied by Puducherry Road Transport Corporation. To extend the benefits to the maximum SC and ST people, the income limit will be enhanced to ₹ 8 lakh for applying to all welfare schemes. Financial assistance will be given for SC people for pilgrimage to visit four places of panja sthalas located in India connected with the life of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Further, it is proposed to extend benefit of ₹ 3 lakh for By-pass surgery and other major surgeries.

147. Subsidies will be given to Women possessing e-Auto license for the purchase of e-Autos. Disbursement of cash dole @ ₹ 500 towards supply of free Dhoti and Sarees will be enhanced to ₹ 1,000 and inter-caste marriage assistance will be enhanced from ₹ 2.50 lakh to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Required land will be acquired for issue of free pattas to eligible Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes.

148. Under the scheme "Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram" (PMJVK), action will be taken for the construction of a new building with modern laboratory facilities for Karaikal Ammaiyar Government College for Women and Dr. Kalaignar PG Research Institute, Karaikal.

149. In order to safeguard the interest of SC and ST people, various Committees and Councils will be formed *viz.,* State Level Committee, Development Council and Advisory Council for proper implementation of Atrocities Act.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES

150. My Government is paying special attention for the development of Backward Classes and Minorities. Apart from the existing welfare measures, it is proposed to distribute hand cart to 100 poor washermen worth ₹ 15,000 per person. Further, under scheme "Supply of free kits to poor artisans" required kits will be supplied to barbers. An indoor stadium will be constructed at Karasur village.

SOCIAL WELFARE

151. Hon'ble Members are well aware that special attention is given to the Physically Challenged persons to improve their socio-economic development. In addition to the existing welfare programmes, it is proposed to supply 50 Free Laptops to the visually impaired students who are pursuing higher studies in this Administration.

152. Further, 50 Multi-Speciality Medical Camp for Senior Citizens in co-ordination with Government Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Pondicherry Society for the Care of the Aged (PONCARE) will be organized for the Welfare of Senior Citizens, for which a sum of ₹12.50 lakh has been allotted.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

153. My Government is implementing various welfare measures for the welfare of Women and Children. My Government's main aim is to protect and to improve the socio-economic status of Women and Children.

154. It is proposed to assess the needs of the children going out from the After Care Programme and also to explore the possibilities for providing education, livelihood and job opportunity.

155. Action will be taken to set up Hostels for physically challenged children and temporary shelter in Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam regions. Child Care

Institution and Juvenile Justice Board will be set up again in Mahe and Yanam region. It is proposed to set up Children Observation Home in Puducherry and Children Care Centre in Mahe region.

156. Awareness programme is proposed to conduct towards Child Rights & Child Protection and Safety and Security of Children at the village level. Action will be taken to conduct various Skill Development Programmes for the children of Child Care Institutions to exhibit their talents.

157. Awareness programme is proposed to conduct towards protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and use of Drug Substance in all the Government and Government aided Schools.

GENERAL

158. Subsidy at the rate of ₹ 300 per month for 12 LPG cylinders for a year will be given for all the Family Ration Card holders for which an additional amount of ₹ 126 crore will be spent by the government each year.

159. For the welfare of the female child, my government is implementing a New scheme *viz.,* "Chief Minister's Female Child Protection Scheme" especially for the new born Female child of this Union Territory of Puducherry. Under this Scheme, an amount of ₹ 50,000 will be deposited as Fixed Deposit in a Nationalized Bank for a term of 18 years.

160. In order to create employment to educated youth, my government has proposed to provide subsidy of 1% on land, building and machinery for each year and for a period of 5 years totalling to 5% from the date of establishment of Industry.

161. It is proposed to implement, "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana", an Accidental Insurance Scheme of Central Government for poor and lower class people. The Government will bear the premium amount for all red card holders.

162. For the welfare of Traders of the Union Territory of Puducherry, my Government has proposed to allot an amount of ₹ 2 crore in this year to the "Traders Welfare Association", Puducherry.

163. Hon'ble Members are well aware that Puducherry being a small Union Territory having only limited source of revenue. However, my Government is committed to implement all the welfare measures without any hindrance and to make all developmental activities. Further, it is the predominant duty of all to ensure that the Welfare Schemes reach the downtrodden people within the appropriate time. For which the services of Government servants is very commendable. Hence, all steps are being taken to fill up the Direct Recruitment vacancies at once and also to issue promotion to the eligible Government servants based on their merit and seniority.

164. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the Budget Estimate for the welfare of the people for financial year 2023-24 to ₹ 11,600 crore before this august house and solicit the esteemed support of the Hon'ble Members in this regard.

VAZHGA BHARATHAM

VELGA PUDUCHERRY

NANDRI VANAKKAM!!



Aayi Mandapam, Puducherry

Designed and Printed at : Government Central Press, Puducherry - 605 009.