



POLICY NOTE – 2009-2010



DIRECTORATE OF TOWN PANCHAYATS

TOWN PANCHAYATS ADMINISTRATION

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Preamble

The Town Panchayats are governed by Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act 1920. There are 561 Town Panchayats in the State, which are classified into special, selection, first and second grade Town Panchayats, based on the income criteria of the Towns.

Many Town Panchayats have tourist, pilgrimage and heritage importance. They are in the path of economic growth, offering opportunities for the development of the people residing in these areas. The total population living in Town Panchayats is 76,46,386, which accounts for 13% of the total population of the State as per 2001 Census. About 30% of urban population of the State, are living in these local bodies.

Administrative System

The Director of Town Panchayats is the Head of the Department looking after the affairs of 561 Town Panchayats under the Administrative control of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department in Government. There are 16 Zonal offices in the State, headed by Assistant Directors of Town Panchayats. The District Collectors of the respective Districts are the heads of the Town Panchayats department at the district level, entrusted with responsibility of supervising the affairs of these local bodies.

Functions of Town Panchayats

The Town Panchayats provide wide range of services such as drinking water supply, street lights, cleaning, management of waste, provision and maintenance of roads, drains and pavements, burial grounds, slaughter houses and managing public utilities like markets, bus stands, and community halls, issuing of Birth and Death Certificates, Planning permissions, building licenses and Dangerous & Offensive trade license, etc.,

Resources of Town Panchayats

The revenue of the Town Panchayats is derived from various sources such as collection of property tax, professional tax, fees, rents, lease and user charges. The surcharges on stamp duty, apportionment of entertainment tax also have been important sources. The local bodies get a substantial Funding from Devolution grants from the Government and also from 12th Finance Commission Grants.

Funds flow in Town Panchayat

The total funds flow in Town Panchayats for the year 2008-09 is Rs.1,15,724 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 36,045 lakhs towards Devolution and a sum of Rs. 3210 lakhs under 12th Finance Commission grant are provided. The other resources include, Entertainment Tax, other Department Scheme grants, such as Tourism, Hill Area Development Programme, Minimum Needs Programme, major schemes, viz. Jawharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP), Swarna Jayanthi Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Localbody Assistance Programme (LAP), Community Based Environment Development(CBED) of CMDA and also the funds from MP LADS / MLA CDS etc.

Powers of various authorities

Director of Town Panchayats has been functioning as Inspector of town Panchayats as per Tamil Nadu District Municipal Act. For the effective and speedy implementation of the schemes, the Government have enhanced financial powers of the authorities for according administrative and technical sanction for various scheme works as a part of delegating more powers to the implementing authorities and local bodies. The powers of the Director of Town Panchayats, District Collectors, Assistant Directors and similarly the Technical sanction powers of Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineer have been increased.

Drinking Water Supply

The objective is to provide minimum of 70 lpcd of protected drinking water supply to the people in all Town Panchayats. The Town Panchayats maintain the stand alone water supply schemes, whereas the combined water supply schemes are being maintained by TWAD Board.

It is proposed to improve drinking water supply position and its regularity in the Town Panchayats, which are not getting minimum of 70 lpcd, in collaboration with TWAD Board under various schemes in a phased manner.

Schemes

1. Anaithu Peruratchi Anna Marumalarchi Thittam

Anaithu Peruratchi Anna Marumalarchi Thittam has been formulated to ensure that all the 561 Town Panchayats are provided with all basic infrastructures such as roads, drains, community halls, office buildings, infrastructure in slum areas renovation of water sources etc. in a span of four years commencing from the year 2007-2008. During 2007-2008, 1493 works at a total project cost of Rs.7000 lakhs have been implemented. More works have been taken up under dovetailing and convergence of various schemes through other departments. In 2008-2009, the scheme is implemented in 140 Town Panchayats and 1438 works have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.7848 lakhs. During the year 2009-2010 also, the scheme will cover 140 Town Panchayats as third phase activity with an outlay of Rs.7000 lakhs.

2. Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT)

Under ground sewerage scheme to Mamallapuram Town Panchayat at the cost of Rs.608 lakhs is being implemented by TWAD Board.

The water supply improvement schemes in 11 Town Panchayats namely viz, Oddanchadram, Vedachandur, Palayam, Gudalur, Sarkar Samakulam, Ottakkalmandapam, Thirumalayampalayam, Samalapuram, Karumathampatty, Chettipalayam, and A.Vallalapatty, at an estimated cost of Rs.3784 lakhs, and underground sewerage scheme in 4 Town Panchayats namely viz, Thirupatthur, Labbaikudikadu, Seveilimedu, and Thiruchendur at an estimated cost of Rs.4186 lakhs have been proposed to be implemented by TWAD Board during 2009-10.

3. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

The underground sewerage scheme in 9 Town Panchayats namely viz. Porur, Madambakkam, Sembakkam, Chitlapakkam, Pallikaranai, Perikankaranai, Perungulatahur, Perungudi and Thirumazhisai at an estimated cost of Rs.34852 lakhs has been approved by the central government and to be implemented by Chennai metro water supply and sewerage board during 2009-2010, under JNNURM.

4. Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) & Basic Service to the Urban Poor (BSUP)

2465 dwelling units with infrastructure works at an estimated cost of Rs.2629 lakhs for the urban poor have been taken up under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme in 8 Town Panchayats. Similarly, 1901 dwelling units with infrastructure works at an estimated cost of Rs.1958 lakhs for the urban poor have been taken up under Basic Services to Urban Poor in 5 Town Panchayats. The above works are under progress.

It is proposed to construct 2882 dwelling units with infrastructure works under IHSDP and BSUP in 29 Town Panchayats viz, Sholavanthan, Paravai, Villangudi, Periyackalpalayam, No.4 Veerpandi, Veerakeralam, Kannampalayam, Idigarai, Madukkarai, Vedapatti, Saravanampatty, Vellalore, Gangavalli, Mohanur, Seerapalli, Alampalayam, Thedavur, Veeraganoor, R.Pudupatty, Avalpundurai, Uthukuli, Pallapalayam, Kodumudi, Lakkampatty, P.Mettupalayam, Gugaloor, P.N.Patty, Karupur and Velur at an estimated cost of Rs.5517 lakhs during the year 2009-10.

5. Part II Schemes

New office buildings in 28 Town Panchayats at cost of Rs.560 lakhs, will be constructed during 2009-2010, under Part II Scheme.

6. Infrastructure gap filling fund

Under this scheme, new office buildings in 23 Town Panchayats, at a cost of Rs. 460 lakhs will be constructed during the year 2009-10.

7. Solid Waste Management

Under Entertainment Tax Compensation Grant for the year 2007-08, compost parks related works in 40 Town Panchayats have been taken up to upgrade Solid Waste Management Infrastructure with an outlay of Rs. 400 lakhs.

Similarly, compost parks related works in 25 Town Panchayats are proposed to be taken up to upgrade Solid Waste Management Infrastructure with an outlay of Rs. 175 lakhs under Entertainment Tax Compensation Grant for the year 2008-09.

8. 12th Finance Commission Grants

A sum of Rs. 3210 lakhs have been allocated under the scheme. Out of this 50% of funds to the tune of Rs.1605 lakhs has been earmarked exclusively for the implementation of Solid Waste Management Programme and the balance amount will be spent for the Improvement of roads, drains etc.,.

9. Swarna Jayanthi Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

With a view to alleviate the poverty in urban areas by way of providing self employment to the women and unemployed youth and also to provide employment to the urban under-employed poor, the above programme is implemented in all the 561 Town Panchayats. The programme has six components, namely, i) imparting skill development training, ii) extending economic assistance to BPL individuals and iii) providing economic assistance to Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas groups, iv) Revolving fund to Thrift and credit Society, v) Community Structure, and vi) Urban Wage Employment Programme.

A sum of Rs.1425 lakhs has been allocated for the year 2008-09 to provide self-employment opportunities to the urban poor, to achieve economic empowerment.

10. Supply of Computers and Soft wares

Computers and Soft wares have been provided to 450 Town Panchayats through National Informatic Centre with the Assistance of Rs. 248 lakhs received from the Information and Technology Department, Government of India.

11. Human Resources Development

In Town Panchayats Department from 13.05.2006 to till date 5014 appointments have been made in various categories such as Executive Officer, Junior Assistant, Bill Collector, sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Supervisor, Sanitary Worker, Water Supply Maintenance Worker, Street Light Maintenance Worker and Office Assistant, out of which 2924 persons were brought into time scale of pay from consolidated pay, 452 persons were appointed on compassionate grounds, 19 persons were appointed through TNPSC, 177 work charged employees were brought into time scale of pay, 1416 persons were appointed through Employment Exchange, 26 persons were appointed from the retrenched employees from ELCOT, Arakkonam Steels and Census Department.