

Chapter – 1

INTRODUCTION

" HEALTH IS WEALTH"

Realising the above adage, the Government headed by Dr.Kalaignar the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, is extending full support to the Health sector by giving importance both in the preventive and curative fields in Tamil Nadu. This Government has taken a number of preventive measures for the welfare of the people. The curative services have been strengthened by providing modern and sophisticated equipments to the Government Hospitals.

1.1. This Government is concentrating on preventive action and with a concept of earlier detection of diseases and provide treatment to the people "Varumun Kappom Thittam" has been introduced. Under this Scheme, upto 31.03.2008, 5894 camps have been conducted and 61.23 lakhs of people are benefitted.

1.2. The emergence or re-emergence of vaccine preventable diseases is on the rise due to various reasons including change of the life style. This Government is concentrating to eradicate the Vaccine Preventable diseases. Recently Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign was conducted on 6.1.08 and 10.2.08 and 72 lakhs of children were benefitted under this campaign. Japanese Encephalitis vaccination programme was implemented in Perambalur, Villupuram, Cuddalore and Virudhunagar Districts and about 17.34 lakhs children were benefitted under this programme. DEC and Albandozole Mass Drug Administration Programme was implemented in 13 endemic districts and Chennai Corporation and 2.60 crores population were benefitted. Being a good performing State, Government of India has selected Tamil Nadu for implementing the Hepatitis-B Vaccination programme in all Districts and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has launched this programme on 6.1.2008 and following the inauguration, the programme has been started in all Districts.

1.3. In Tamil Nadu, only disposable syringes are used in the hospitals and all Primary Health Centres and for this, necessary funds have been provided. Even though Chikungunya was spreading in adjoining Kerala State, this Government have taken timely action to prevent the spreading of Chikungunya Viral Fever to Tamil Nadu.

1.4. This Government is implementing various programmes to control the anaemia and malnutrition among the women and children, and as one of the measures to achieve this, Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme has been introduced and under this Scheme, Rs.6000/- is given as financial assistance to pregnant women i.e. Rs.3000/- is given to the poor mothers at the 7th month of pregnancy and Rs.3000/- at the time of delivery. As a result of this assistance, weight gain during pregnancy is showing improvement. This Scheme is widely appreciated by all States in India. So far 7 lakhs women were benefitted and a cash assistance of Rs.400 crores has been released. As per the guidelines of the above scheme, pregnant women have to obtain family income certificate to avail maternity assistance. As this is a hardship for them during pregnancy, this Government have decided to relax this condition. From this financial year onwards, financial assistance will be given under this scheme to women from poor families based only on the recommendation of the Village Health Nurse who examines the beneficiary during pregnancy and without having to produce an income certificate.

1.5. With the aim of providing 24 hours delivery care services to the rural people, the scheme of 24 hour delivery care services is implemented in 1000 PHCs in Tamil Nadu and 3 staff nurses are posted to these PHCs to attend the delivery and Emergency first aid services round the clock. Tamil Nadu is the only State where the scheme has been implemented in 1000 PHCs. By this measure, the deliveries in the PHCs have increased substantially. During the year 2007-08, in the PHCs alone 71,390 deliveries have increased. During the current year this scheme is

extended to the remaining 421 Primary Health Centres Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics and New born Care services (CEmONC) have been provided in 98 District and Taluk hospitals and in Medical College Hospitals where Specialists Doctors have been provided. Because of these efforts, deliveries in Government Institutions has raised to 64.25%. Only in Tamil Nadu, 98.9% of total deliveries are taking place in the Institutions and only 1.1% deliveries are still taking place in homes. We are taking steps to achieve 100% Institutional deliveries in the coming years.

1.6. With the aim of providing quality health care to the rural and poor people, this Government have provided modern equipments to the Government Institutions, which include 6 MRI Scans, one 64 Slice CT Scanner, two Lithotripsy equipments, Multi Slice CT Scan, 2 Cobalt therapy units and 385 Semi Auto Analysers. Further Semi Auto Analyzers to 385 Primary Health Centres will be provided. Ten Government Medical colleges will be provided digital X-ray machines at a cost of Rs.10 crores during the year 2008-09.

1.7. Family Welfare Programme is implemented well in Tamil Nadu. The Birth Rate has been reduced from 31% per 1000 population in 1971 to 16.2 in 2006 which is the second lowest among the bigger States in the Country. The Infant Mortality Rate has been reduced to 31 in 2006 and Maternal Mortality Rate has been reduced to 90 per 1,00,000 live births.

1.8. Infrastructural facilities in Medical College Hospitals, District and Taluk Hospitals and PHCs, are strengthened under various projects and State Government funds. Government Institute of Child Health and Hospital for children, Chennai is being strengthened at a cost of Rs.13.83 crores, Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, Chennai at a cost of Rs.25 crores, Government Royapettah Hospital, Chennai at a cost of Rs.10 crores, Chengalpattu Medical College at a cost of Rs.25 crores, Government Dental College, Chennai at a cost of Rs.13 crores, Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai at a cost of Rs.22.06 crores and Stanley Medical College Hospital, at a total cost of Rs.100 crores. The Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital, Salem is being upgraded on par with All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi at a cost of Rs.120 crores. Orders have been issued for the construction of new hostel buildings for Medical College students of Chengalpattu, Thiruchirappalli, Kilpauk and Stanley at a cost of Rs.20.87 crores and for Nursing students of Government Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore and District Headquarters Hospital, Udhagamandalam at a cost of Rs.1.97 crores. New Nursing schools will be established at Vellore and Theni medical colleges at a cost of Rs.4 crores during the year 2008-2009. 75 Primary Health Centres have been upgraded as 30 bedded PHCs at a cost of Rs.43.49 crores and construction works have commenced in most of the Primary Health Centres. Under the Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project, the construction of building at a cost of Rs.221 crores for 232 Government hospitals has been taken up. Equipments and additional staff required for the new buildings have also been sanctioned.

1.9. In accordance with this Government's objective that a medical college must be established in every district of the State, orders have been issued in the last two years for establishing new medical colleges in three district headquarters namely Villupuram, Thiruvarur and Dharmapuri and necessary follow-up action to open the colleges is under progress. Similarly, two new medical colleges will be established at the district headquarter towns of Sivagangai and Perambalur in the current financial year.

1.10. The Bio-Medical Waste Management will be implemented in Medical College Hospitals, District and Non -Taluk Hospitals and upgraded PHCs very shortly. The funds of Rs.16.32 crores have already been sanctioned for implementing the project.

1.11. 1607 Patients Welfare Societies have been constituted in all the District Headquarters Hospitals, Taluk and Non-Taluk Hospitals and Primary Health Centres and Rs.26 crores have been released to these Societies for improving the hospitals and PHCs.

1.12. 12,618 Village Health Water and Sanitation Committees have been formed in the Village Panchayats and similar 2540 Village Health Water and Sanitation Committees have been constituted in 561 Town Panchayats and Rs.10000/- has been provided to each Committee for undertaking the sanitation and hygienic activities.

1.13. Tamil Nadu was categorized as a high prevalence HIV/AIDS State in the year 2001. ANC prevalence was found to be 1.13%. Due to effective programme implementation in Tamil Nadu, the prevalence has come down to 0.38% now. Tamil Nadu becomes the first State in the country to achieve the millennium Development goal of halting and reversing the HIV epidemics. Tamil Nadu becomes the first State in the country to provide maximum number of 760 Integrated and Counselling and Testing Centres, 10 Mobile ICTCs have been operationalised in the year 2007 to take the counselling and testing centres to the door steps of the people.

1.14. In order to give a helping hand to the children orphaned by AIDS, living in misery without any support, this Government have decided to form a Government sponsored Trust for their welfare. This Trust will help children who have lost either their mother or father or both due to AIDS. The Government will provide monthly assistance through this Trust to those NGOs or relatives who take care of these children in the form of allowances for their maintenance, education and health care. A sum of Rupees five crores has been provided for this Trust in this Budget.

1.15. 24 Hours emergency ambulance services have been provided in 187 blocks in 15 districts of Tamil Nadu with the participation of Non Governmental Organisations. For the remaining 198 Blocks, the supply of Ambulance Van will commence soon. With a view to assisting the public in need of urgent medical attention, who require to be taken immediately to hospitals, this Government will launch a new scheme in the current financial year whereby people from anywhere in the State need to dial a single common telephone number to request emergency ambulance services. A computer based central control room along with GPS fitted Ambulances will provide this service. The services of Police and Fire Service departments will also be integrated to this system thereby ensuring immediate assistance to the public in situations of emergency. A Centre for providing immediate medical care to people affected in large numbers during natural calamities and major accidents, will be established at Chennai with Central assistance.

1.16. In order to facilitate heart surgery for children from poor families requiring it without any delay, the Young Children Heart Surgery Scheme is being implemented by this Government in partnership with private hospitals. Under this scheme, the Government provides grants-in-aid up to Rs.70,000/- to private hospitals. So far, 17 reputed hospitals have been selected and 200 children have undergone heart surgery.

1.17. 100 Mobile Medical Units have been established to provide Outreach services to unreached and vulnerable group of population. One Medical Officer and One Staff Nurse are appointed to each Unit. 139 more such units will be established in the year 2008-2009.

1.18. Considering the need of strengthening of Accident and Trauma Care Centres in the Hospitals located at National Highways, already 10 district and Taluk Hospitals and 2 Medical College Hospitals have been provided with the above Centres. Emergency Trauma Care Centres will be established at Kilpauk Medical College at a cost of Rs.8 crores, Vellore Medical College at a cost of Rs.7crores and Krishnagiri district Headquarters Hospital at a cost of Rs.3 crores with assistance of the Union Government.

1.19. The Government are giving importance to Indian Medicine and separate State Licensing Authority has been formed for Indian Medicine. The Government have allotted Rs.75 lakhs for construction of building and staff to the office of the State Licensing Authority.

1.20. In order to help the poor to get quality health care without delay and to bring accountability among the service providers, the Government have directed that the Grievances Redressal System be introduced in all Government Hospitals. The Grievances Redressal System would cover the functioning of Health Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres, all Government Hospitals and Medical College Hospitals and their attached institutions and will function round the clock on all days. The existing ambulance control room in the districts will be used to receive grievances and suggestions from the public through the toll Free No.1056. The control room staff will call the District Grievances Cell officer over phone who will in turn contact the hospital concerned to solve the problems. If he notices any delay after his intervention, he would call the State Grievance Cell officer who would intervene and sort out the issue. For every district, a panel of officers will be formed from which the District Grievance Cell Officer will be appointed on rotation basis every month. At the State level, the Programme officers will be nominated as State level Grievance Cell Officer. Initially the offenders responsible for the lapses will be warned. The repeated offences by any individual will warrant serious disciplinary action.

1.21. The provision for Health and Family Welfare Department under Demand No.19 for 2008-2009 is Rs.2740.71 crores as detailed below:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Demand	Non - Plan	Plan			Total
		State Plan	Centrally Sponsored	Shared between Centre and State	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
19 Health & Family Welfare Department	1804.15	653.19	278.17	5.00	936.36

Demand	Total Plan and Non-Plan	Add Recoveries	Total
(1)	(7)	(8)	(9)
19 Health & Family Welfare Department	2740.51	0.20	2740.71

This includes Rs.2586.20 crores on the Revenue Account and Rs.154.31 crores on the Capital Account. The provision on the Revenue Account, works out to 5.03% of the total Revenue Expenditure of Rs.51,421.57 crores in the Tamil Nadu State Budget for the year 2008-2009.

1.22. The directorate-wise provision for 2008-2009 made under Demand No.19 Health and Family Welfare Department is as follows:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

1	Secretariat, Health and Family Welfare Department	1145.42
2	Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services	40888.08
3	Directorate of Medical Education	83890.01
4	Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine	93975.67
5	Directorate of Family Welfare	8957.24
6	Directorate of Drugs Control	803.53
7	Commissionerate of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy	8629.68
8	Tamil Nadu State Health Transport Department	1402.14
9	Reproductive and Child Health Project	5330.93
10	Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project	29048.69
	Total	274071.39

Note:

- a. Apart from the above provision, funds towards Civil Works being undertaken by Public Works Department have been provided to the tune of Rs.199.68 crores under Demand No.39.
- b. Provision towards ESI Scheme Hospitals for Rs.119.28 crores has been made in the Labour and Employment Demand No.32.

1.23. New Schemes for the year 2008-2009:

It is proposed to implement 23 new schemes (Part-II Schemes) at a total ultimate cost of Rs.510.36 lakhs. The Directorate-wise details are furnished below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Directorate	No. of Schemes	Ultimate Cost	Cost for 2008-2009
1	Secretariat, Health and Family Welfare Department	1	35.00	35.00
2	Directorate of Medical Education	4	152.17	152.17
3	Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services	3	44.19	44.15
4	Commissionerate of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy	2	145.00	83.89
5	Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine	2	47.25	47.25
6	Directorate of Family Welfare	3	6.70	6.70
7	Directorate of Drugs Control	6	75.05	75.05
8	Tamil Nadu State Health Transport Department	2	5.00	5.00
	Total	23	510.36	449.21

1.24. Details of the New Schemes proposed and the activities of the Directorates are narrated in the succeeding chapters.