

Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department

Demand No.36

Note on Policy

1.1 The main functions of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department are:

- i. Preparation of Five Year Plans and Annual Plans with inputs from State Planning Commission and liaison with the Union Planning Commission.
- ii. Monitoring of Plan Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Schemes shared between State and Centre.
- iii. Evaluation of Plan Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Externally Aided Projects through Directorate of Evaluation and Applied Research.
- iv. Collection, compilation and release of statistical data through Directorate of Economics and Statistics. This includes State Income Estimates, conduct of Economic Census, Agricultural Census and Special Surveys as well as monthly monitoring of the State's economy.
- v. Monitoring of poverty alleviation programmes under Twenty Point Programme.
- vi. Overseeing the implementation of Hill Area Development Programme and Western Ghats Development Programme.
- vii. Monitoring the impact of issues concerning the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at the State Level.
- viii. Review of progress of major infrastructure projects.
- ix. Initiating and overseeing Special Initiatives undertaken from time to time.
- x. Coordination of activities relating to Remote Sensing.
- xi. Follow up action on the reports of the District Monitoring Officers.

1.2 Brief notes on these activities are given below:

1.2.1 The Performance of Five Year Plans

The State Government has been consistently achieving the Plan Outlays from Second Five Year Plan onwards. The approved plan outlays and expenditure from First Five Year Plan till Tenth Five Year Plan are indicated below:

Plan period	(Rs. in crores)	
	Approved Outlay	Expenditure
First Plan (1951-56)	86	80
Second Plan (1956-61)	186	188
Third Plan and Annual Plans (1961-69)	608	613
Fourth Plan (1969-74)	552	559
Fifth Plan (1974-79)	1122	1165
Sixth Plan (1980-85)	3150	3645
Seventh Plan (1985-90)	5750	6317
Annual Plan (1990-91)	1450	1591
Annual Plan (1991-92)	1600	1726
Eighth Plan (1992-97)	10200	14024
Ninth Plan (1997-2002)	25000	25036
Tenth Plan (2002-2007)	40000	43568

1.2.2 Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012)

The Eleventh Five Year Plan is being implemented with an outlay of Rs.85,344 crores. The Government is implementing plan programmes with the objective of achieving an average annual growth rate of 9% in the State's economy during this Plan period.

1.2.3 Annual Plan 2007-2008

2007-2008 is the first year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Union Planning Commission has approved the Annual Plan outlay of Rs.14,000 crores for 2007-2008 which is 12% higher than the outlay for the Annual Plan 2006-2007.

1.2.4 Annual Plan 2008-2009

2008-2009 is the second year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Approval of the Union Planning Commission has been obtained for a higher Annual Plan outlay of Rs.16,000 crores for 2008-2009 during the meeting held between the Finance Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission at New Delhi on 11.02.2008.

1.2.5 Plan Review

The monthly Plan expenditure of the schemes implemented during the Annual Plan is received from the concerned Secretariat Department every month. They are compiled and submitted to the Chief Secretary through Secretary (Finance) for monitoring and for review during the All Secretaries Meeting to be held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. The quarterly performance of Annual Plan is submitted to Finance Minister.

1.2.6 Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) was implemented in five districts viz. Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Sivaganga districts with full support from the Union Planning Commission and Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India. The main objectives of the scheme were to address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. Special Central Assistance of Rs.15 crores was released annually to each district for three years for implementation of the RSVY programme. This programme cover soil conservation, afforestation, social forestry, watershed development, minor irrigation, agriculture, horticulture, infrastructure development (roads and power), social sector (health and education) and livelihood support (income generating activities such as handlooms, information technology, agricultural processing, etc.). Per Capita Income and agricultural productivity is expected to improve after the completion of the schemes in three years.

RSVY is now renamed as Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) and implemented by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

1.2.7 Centrally Sponsored Schemes / Schemes shared between State and Centre

The Centrally Sponsored Schemes (100% funded by Government of India) and Schemes shared between State and Centre implemented by various Departments / Agencies are monitored on monthly basis. The progress of release of funds by Government of India for the above schemes is monitored on quarterly basis.

1.2.8 Special Initiatives and Projects

As per G.O.Ms.No.31, Planning and Development Department, dated 29.04.2003, the Planning and Development Department has been renamed as Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department to pursue Special Initiatives and Projects to process innovative schemes that emanate from different sources in consultation with the respective administrative departments of the Secretariat and other line departments.

In the G.O. (Ms.) No.146, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, dated 02.11.2006 orders have been issued for inclusion of the subject "Special Initiatives" in the First Schedule of the Business Rules under "Concurrent Subjects".

The following instructions were issued in Government letter No.8835/CSS/2003, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, dated 02.11.2006:-

- I. "Special Initiatives" is a generic subject distinct from any particular initiative which may materialize at some point of time.
- II. A particular matter may be a "special initiative" at one stage and later may become a normal subject.
- III. Special Initiatives may be initiated by Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department *Suo Motu*, or at the request of another Department. Special Initiatives will be handled and coordinated by Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department in consultation with the administrative departments concerned.

- IV. It is in the nature of Special Initiatives that some of them may not ultimately be successful or worth pursuing, and hence may be dropped.
- V. Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department's role will be to initiate and / or co-ordinate and either bring the initiative to maturity or determine that the initiative is not worth pursuing and drop it.
- VI. Once it is determined that a particular initiative has reached a level of maturity such that it is sustainable and / or the continued intervention of the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department is no longer necessary, it will be handed over to the concerned administrative departments.

In pursuance of the above, the following ideas had been taken up for Special Initiatives:-

- i. Bio-Mass Energy – Project and Bio-Mass Supply.
- ii. Ethanol production from Sugar Mills and Ethanol production from non-molasses sources like sugar beet, sweet sorghum, maize, tapioca and other starchy plants.
- iii. Bio-fuel from Jatropha and Paradise Tree.
- iv. Hi-Tech farming.

In G.O.Ms.No.10, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, dated 18.01.2007, Chennai Metro Rail Project has been declared as Special Initiative under the Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department.

Chennai Metro Rail Project

Chennai Metropolis has been growing rapidly and the traffic volumes on the roads have also been increasing enormously. Hence the need for a new rail based rapid transport system has been felt and towards this objective the Government of Tamil Nadu have decided to implement the Chennai Metro Rail Project. This project aims at providing the people of Chennai with a fast, reliable, convenient, efficient and economical mode of public transport, which is properly integrated with other forms of public and private transport including buses, sub-urban trains and MRTS.

A Detailed Project Report (DPR) relating to the Chennai Metro Rail Project was prepared and submitted by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) who have successfully designed and implemented the Delhi Metro Rail Project. The DPR envisages the creation of 2 initial corridors under the proposed Chennai Metro Rail Project as shown below:

Corridor	Length
Washermenpet to Chennai Airport	23.1 kms
Chennai Fort to St. Thomas Mount	23.4 kms
Total	46.5 kms

The corridors are expected to cover the following stations:

Corridor-1: Washermenpet – Mannadi – Chennai Fort - Chennai Central Station – Egmore – LIC – Thousand Lights - Gemini – Teynampet – Chamiers Road – Saidapet – Velacheri Road - Guindy – Alandur – Officers Training Academy – Indian Airlines Colony – Meenambakkam - Chennai Airport.

Corridor-2: Chennai Fort – Chennai Central Station – Veperiy – Shastri Nagar - Kilpauk Medical College - Aminjikarai - Shenoy Nagar – Anna Nagar East – Anna Nagar Tower - Tirumangalam – Koyambedu – CMBT – Arumbakkam – Vadapalani – Ashok Nagar – K.K.Nagar - SIDCO – Alandur – St. Thomas Mount.

Part of this will be underground and the remaining on elevated portions. The alignment and stations given above are tentative and subject to change during detailed design and execution. The Detailed Project Report envisages completion of these corridors by 2013-2014.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have approved in principle the two initial corridors mentioned above. The Government of India are also keen on implementing this Project. The proposal sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu for Central Government funding has received in principle clearance of the Union Planning Commission and is awaiting Central Government approval.

The cost of this project (in March 2007 prices) is tentatively estimated at Rs.9,757 crores excluding taxes, duties, escalation, interest during construction etc. and the cost may undergo change during detailed design and execution. Of this, the Central and State Governments together are expected to contribute about 40%. The balance amount is expected to be met by a loan to be granted by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The Government of Tamil Nadu has created a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for implementing the Chennai Metro Rail Project. This SPV named as “Chennai Metro Rail Limited” was incorporated on 03.12.2007 under the Companies Act.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has also issued notification enabling the engagement of DMRC by Chennai Metro Rail Limited as the Interim / Prime consultant for the implementation of Chennai Metro Rail Project.

Missions of JBIC visited Chennai in January and April 2008 and held detailed discussions with the officials connected with the implementation of Chennai Metro Rail Project. A high level delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration Thiru M.K. Stalin, visited Tokyo and held discussions with the Executive Director General and other officials of JBIC at the Headquarters of JBIC on 06.02.2008. In that meeting the JBIC delegation had expressed its keen interest in considering the Metro project for possible financing. The JBIC's Special Assistance for Project Formation (SAPROF) study is underway.

1.2.9 Hill Area Development Programme

The Hill Area Development Programme is being implemented in the Nilgiris District since the year 1975, with the financial assistance from Union Planning Commission, Government of India, with a view to supplement the efforts of the State Government in preservation, protection and enrichment of bio-diversity of hill areas.

The main objectives of the Programme have been eco-preservation and eco-restoration. All development schemes are planned in this framework with emphasis on preservation of bio-diversity and rejuvenation of the hill ecology. The plans are prepared on integrated watershed basis. The entire Nilgiris district has been delineated into 75 major watersheds and schemes are implemented based on identification of priority watersheds. Under this programme, micro-watersheds are developed by measures such as conserving rain water through treatment of drainage lines in the micro watersheds and promoting in-situ moisture conservation by eco-friendly agricultural production system on arable land.

An annual allocation of Special Central Assistance (SCA) of Rs.35.50 crores is being made by the Union Planning Commission to Tamil Nadu. The pattern of assistance is 90% grant and 10% loan. From 2005-2006 onwards, the Government of India is releasing only the grant component of SCA. The State Government has been permitted to float Open Market Loan to the extent of loan component.

Performance during 2007-2008

The total allocation for the year 2007-2008 was Rs.35.50 crores and the sanctions were issued for the entire allocation. The sectors which received major allocations are Soil Conservation, Forestry, Horticulture, Development of Local Bodies, Road connectivity, Welfare of SC/ST and Tourism.

Plan Proposals for 2008-2009

Based on the performance, Union Planning Commission has agreed to allocate an amount of Rs.42.93 crores for the Annual Plan 2008-2009. The draft Annual Plan is under preparation. In the draft Annual Plan, priority will be given to Soil and Water Conservation, Forestry, Horticulture, Welfare of SC/ST, Roads and Tourism.

1.2.10 Western Ghats Development Programme

Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) is being implemented in Tamil Nadu from 1975-76 with the financial assistance (90% Grant and 10% Loan) from the Union Planning Commission, Government of India.

The Western Ghats region in Tamil Nadu is spread over 26,000 Sq.Kms. i.e., around 20% of the total area of Tamil Nadu. This Programme is presently implemented in 8 Districts covering 57 Blocks, in 33 Taluks of Tamil Nadu. Out of the 8 Districts, 2 Districts namely Theni and Kanyakumari Districts are fully covered under WGDP.

The broad objectives of this programme are as follows: -

- (i) Maintenance of the ecological balance essential for life support systems.
- (ii) Preservation of genetic diversity.
- (iii) Restoration of ecological damage caused by human interaction.
- (iv) Creation of awareness among the people and educating them on the far-reaching implications of ecological degradation and securing their active participation for the eco-development schemes.

Under this Programme, the main developmental activities undertaken are Soil Conservation, Horticulture, Forestry, Minor Irrigation, Rural roads, Fisheries, Sericulture,

Welfare of Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes, Tourism, Gap filling infrastructure and Non-Conventional Sources of Energy. The spatial unit for planning and development under this Programme is the "watershed". 134 watersheds are being covered under integrated development.

For the Annual Plan 2007-2008, an outlay of Rs.17.04 crores has been approved by the Union Planning Commission. The proposals received from the Heads of Departments were placed before the District Level Western Ghats Development Programme Co-ordination Committee headed by the District Collector and after clearance they have been included in the Annual Plan 2007-2008.

For the year 2008-2009, an enhanced outlay of Rs.20.61 crores has been approved by Union Planning Commission, Government of India. There is an increase of Rs.3.57 crores over and above the Annual Plan outlay for 2007-2008.

1.2.11 Twenty Point Programme-2006

Twenty Point Programme (TPP) was initially launched in 1975 and restructured twice in 1982 and 1986. The third restructuring has been done in 2006 and the programme has been named as "TPP 2006" and monitoring mechanism is operational from 1st April 2007.

The main objective of the programme is to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of life of the poor and the under-privileged population of the country. The programme covers various socio-economic aspects like poverty eradication, employment, education, housing, health, agriculture and land reforms, irrigation, drinking water, protection and empowerment of weaker section, consumer protection, etc.

TPP monthly progress reports are sent to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India (GOI). GOI is ranking the performance of the States on monthly basis. Performance of Districts under TPP is ranked by the State Government.

1.2.12 Evaluation of Major Programmes / Schemes

Evaluation of Schemes to ensure that the benefits actually reach the targeted population is an important function of the Department. Both concurrent and terminal evaluations are done by Directorate of Evaluation and Applied Research and the outcomes are analysed and course corrections and policy changes, if any, are suggested to Government.

1.2.13 World Trade Organisation Cell

The nodal Cell formed to coordinate matters relating to World Trade Organisation as per G.O.Ms.No.121, Planning and Development Department, dated 19.11.2001 is functioning in Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department. Seminars on World Trade Organisation challenge to State Agriculture Sector was conducted. A Seminar on challenges faced by Textile Industry, especially Apparels Industry, from the globalisation of market brought in by World Trade Organisation was held in the stake holders in Tiruppur. Developments in various fields are watched and concerned departments are advised to take follow up action.

1.3 Heads of Department

The departments under the administrative control of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department are as follows:-

- (i) State Planning Commission
- (ii) Department of Economics and Statistics
- (iii) Department of Evaluation and Applied Research

The functions of the above departments are given briefly in the following pages:-

State Planning Commission

2.1 In accordance with the Directive Principles of State Policy enunciated in the Constitution of India, in order to undertake planned development in the State, the State Planning Commission was **constituted in Tamil Nadu on 25th May 1971**. The State Planning Commission functions under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. It functions as an Advisory Body and makes its recommendations to the Government on various matters pertaining to development of the State. It has been lastly reconstituted on 19.05.2006 with Prof. M. Naganathan as Vice Chairman, seven part time Members. The Secretary to Government, (Planning and Development) and the Secretary to Government (Finance) are ex-officio Members. The Member- Secretary, State Planning Commission is in-charge of the administration of the Commission.

2.2 The main responsibilities of the Commission are:

- i. Preparation of the Five Year Plans and Annual Plans based on the policies and priorities of the Government.
- ii. Advising the Government on formulation of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) as an integral part of Five Year / Annual Plan.
- iii. Undertaking Mid-Term review of the Five Year Plan and advising the Government on appropriate modification / restructuring of the schemes.
- iv. Evaluation of major plan schemes through Department of Evaluation and Applied Research.
- v. Monitoring of the development indicators that influence the Human Development Index, Gender Development Index, etc., at a disaggregated level.
- vi. Undertaking special studies as required for formulation and implementation of plan projects and programmes.
- vii. Monitoring the Tamil Nadu economy and sending reports to Government as necessary.

2.3 Preparation of Annual Plan and Eleventh Five Year Plan

2.3.1 Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012)

Subsequent to the release of the Approach Paper for the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the State indicating the broad focus areas and strategies, the Eleventh Five Year Plan document has been prepared and approved in the State Planning Commission meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, held on 09.12.2007. The outlay for the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been fixed at Rs.85,344 crores, of which Rs.18,192.83 crores has been earmarked for new and innovative schemes and the remainder for ongoing schemes. The innovative features of the preparation of the Eleventh Plan are that the document has been prepared both in Tamil and English after consulting and getting opinions from the public, the NGOs and other stake holders. The document has been prepared in two parts – Part I gives the overview of the Plan, while Part II gives the detailed sectoral chapters including the status of the economy of the State.

2.3.2 Annual Plan for 2008-2009

The State's Annual Plans largely follow the objectives and priorities of the Central Plan as well as those of the Five Year Plan of the State. An outlay of Rs.16,000 crores has been approved for the Annual Plan 2008-2009 in the meeting with the Deputy Chairman, Union Planning Commission held on 11.02.2008 at New Delhi. This is 14% higher than the outlay for 2007-2008 at current prices.

2.4 Tamil Nadu State Land Use Board

The State Land Use Board is functioning under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman, State Planning Commission. Secretaries to Government and Heads of Departments concerned with land and water use are its members. The Member-Secretary, State Planning Commission is the Co-Chairperson.

The Board has been set up to ensure that effective measures are taken to protect good agricultural lands which are the State's most precious asset against depletion by erosion by wind or sea, water logging and salinity or by urbanization and industrialization. It would also take up detailed surveys to give an accurate picture of the soil resources in the State and their location for the purposes of carrying out ameliorative and development programmes. It would take necessary measures for prevention of siltation of medium and major irrigation projects and river basins.

The Government of India has approved a Work Plan of Rs.75 lakhs for the year 2007-2008. For the year 2008-2009, an amount of Rs.85 lakhs has been proposed to Government of India.

2.5 Human Development

The Human Development Research and Coordination Unit (HDR&C), was established in the State Planning Commission under the UNDP – Planning Commission, Government of India sponsored Project "Strengthening State Plans for Human Development (SSPHD)". Under this Project, District Human Development reports for three districts namely Sivaganga, Tiruvannamalai and Cuddalore have been approved by the Steering Committee and are being finalized for release. The Human Development reports of Dindigul and Nagapattinam are under preparation.

The SSPHD project has been extended till December 2009 and augmented to include two more components viz., Engendering of State Plans for Human Development

and Strengthening the State Statistical Systems. The State Planning Commission is also planning to prepare the Second State Human Development Report for the State as well as District Human Development Reports for more districts.

2.6 New Schemes for 2008-2009

It is proposed to strengthen infrastructure facilities in the State Planning Commission, create a digital library, set up a state level data centre and impart training to the staff at a total cost of Rs.32.50 lakhs.

Department of Economics and Statistics

3.1 The Department of Economics and Statistics is the apex statistical agency in the State. The main functions of the Department are coordinating statistical activities in the State, collection, compilation, analysis and release of reports in various sectors like agriculture, industries, prices, etc.

3.2 Various schemes implemented by the Department of Economics and Statistics are :

A) State Schemes:

Modernisation of Data Collection and Management System

This is undertaken by upgradation of computer systems and training of personnel.

B) Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Agricultural Census

Agricultural Census seeks to retabulate the size, structure and tenure of farm units from relevant land records with operational holdings as a fundamental unit for Micro level Agricultural Planning.

2. Crop Estimation Survey on Fruits, Vegetables and Minor Crops

To make reliable estimates of Production and Yield per Hectare of Fruits, Vegetables and Minor crops through crop cutting experiments with reasonable degree of precision.

Special Survey conducted - Type Study on Horticulture Crops

To fill-up the gaps in the rates and ratio, a Type Study was conducted from November 2006 to August 2007 for Periwinkle, Senna, Glory Lilly, Gerberra, Carnation and Mushroom Crops. Rs.13.50 lakhs was sanctioned by Government of India for this survey. Survey was completed and report is yet to be released.

3. Setting up of Nodal Centre for National Technical Manpower Information System

Information on different categories of Engineering and Technical specialisation from all the Engineering Graduates / Diploma Holders who have passed out every year in Tamil Nadu are collected to assess the demand and supply on a continuing basis.

4. Economic Census

Economic Census is the complete enumeration of all the Agricultural (except crop production and plantation) and Non-Agricultural establishments located within the geographical boundaries of the State.

The Fifth Economic Census was conducted in Tamil Nadu during 2005 with 100% grant from Government of India. Government of India have allotted a sum of Rs.588.76 lakhs to conduct the Fifth Economic Census in Tamil Nadu. Out of which a sum of Rs.575.62 lakhs has been incurred so far. The balance amount of Rs.13.14 lakhs will be spent within the current financial year.

The final report of Fifth Economic Census has been completed and awaiting permission from Government of India for release of report.

C) Shared between State and Centre (50 : 50)

1. Timely Reporting Scheme on Area of Crops

To build up land use statistics based on priority enumeration in a sample of 20% of villages for each year. To work out estimates of area of high yielding and local varieties of certain important crops under irrigated and un-irrigated category for each season.

2. Improvement of Crop Statistics

The scheme seeks to locate deficiencies in the system of collection of Agricultural Statistics in the State by exercising meaningful supervision by Central and State authorities over the primary field workers viz. Village Administrative Officers and suggest remedial measures for the improvement of the system. The scheme is further expected to provide the basis for determining the precise lines on which the improvement in the Crop Estimation System would require to be effected.

3.3 Non-Plan Schemes

The Non-Plan Schemes such as, State Income Estimation, State Accounts, Capital Formation, Annual Survey of Industries, Monthly Index Number of Industrial Production, Season and Crop Report, Crop Forecast Reports, Crop Estimation Survey on Food and Non-Food Crops, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Coconut and Arecanut Survey, Collection of Rainfall Statistics, Irrigation Statistics, Index of Agricultural Wages, Housing Statistics, Building Construction Cost Index, Municipal Year Book and District Statistical Hand Book, Publication of State Statistical Hand Book and Annual Statistical Abstract, Manpower and Employment Scheme, Handloom, Foreign Trade, Market Intelligence and Prices, Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, Wholesale Price Index and Crops Estimation survey on Minor Crops, Environment Statistics, Marketable Surplus and National Sample Survey are being implemented in this department.

3.4 State Statistical Committee

The methodologies and data generation and dissemination capabilities of the Department of Economics and Statistics are overseen by the State Statistical Committee. The State Statistical Committee has been reconstituted vide G.O.Ms.No.156, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (ST-2) Department, dated 15.11.2006. The State Statistical Committee Meeting was lastly held on 25.04.2007.

3.5 New Schemes for 2008-2009

To strengthen the infrastructure facilities of the Department of Economics and Statistics, a sum of Rs.50.00 lakhs has been provided.

Department of Evaluation and Applied Research

4.1 The Government has been implementing and funding a wide range of development schemes and programmes. It becomes imperative to assess the impact and outcome of such schemes and programmes. Accordingly, the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research, since its inception in 1972, has been given the responsibility by undertaking Evaluation Studies to assist in policy formulation and better programme implementation.

4.2 The major functions of the Department are:-

- i. Evaluating schemes, projects and programmes sponsored by both Central and State Governments and Externally Aided Agencies;
- ii. Carrying out adhoc studies relating to specific areas and socio-economic surveys;
- iii. Applying econometric models with regard to forecasting of tax revenues of State Government ; and
- iv. Bringing out two annual Publications, viz., 'Tamil Nadu - An Economic Appraisal' and 'An Economic-cum-Functional Classification of Budgetary Transactions of Tamil Nadu'.

4.3 The evaluation studies undertaken by the Department include schemes implemented by State and Central Governments and Externally Aided Projects of World Bank, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), European Economic Community (EEC) and International Development Agency (IDA) in Tamil Nadu. In addition, the Department has been concurrently taking up regular evaluation studies on various components of the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) and the Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP). Apart from these, the Department undertakes quick studies and adhoc research studies.

4.4 Since its inception, upto March 2008, the Department has undertaken 582 evaluation studies spanning various sectors.

4.5 A State Evaluation Committee (SEC) has been constituted to identify the schemes / programmes that need to be evaluated and to discuss the findings of the evaluation reports for taking necessary follow-up action. The reconstituted SEC is functioning under the Chairmanship of Development Commissioner and Finance Secretary and the Director, Evaluation and Applied Research Department as Member-Secretary.

4.6 New Schemes for 2008-2009

To strengthen the infrastructure facilities and to improve the professional capabilities of the officials of the Evaluation and Applied Research Department, a sum of Rs.10.00 lakhs has been provided.

**K. ANBAZHAGAN,
Minister for Finance.**