

# **REVENUE DEPARTMENT**

## **POLICY NOTE**

**2008-2009**

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### **CHAPTER I**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Revenue Department has the legacy and pride of being the oldest department in the administrative set up of the State. It continues to be the backbone of administration and

contributes substantially towards the achievement of the objective of an orderly socio - economic development.

2. The prime functions of the Revenue Department are in the capacity of it being the custodian of all lands. It safeguards the rights of the people's holdings on land through proper recording and updating of the land records. The Department deals with all works relating to land assignment, land acquisition, land alienation, grant of house site pattas, land ceiling and collection of Urban Land Tax.

3. Revenue Department also plays a crucial role during times of natural calamities like cyclone, flood, drought, earthquake, landslide, tsunami etc., providing much needed relief in the form of food, shelter, essential commodities and financial assistance to the affected people. As such, the activities of the department touch upon the various facets of citizens lives in different ways.

4. In Revenue Department, at the State level, the works are looked after by the various Commissioners, (ie)

Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Commissioner of Land Administration, Commissioner of Land Reforms, Commissioner of Survey and Settlement and Commissioner of Urban Land Ceiling and Urban Land Tax. At the district level, under the leadership of the District Collector, revenue functions are discharged by various functionaries including District Revenue Officers, Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, Village Administrative Officers and the supporting ministerial staff.

5. The Government have been taking various steps to provide effective services to the people through an efficient administration by filling up of sanctioned posts, providing training to the staff, allocation of powers, delegation of powers and functions within the administrative hierarchy as well as equipping the offices with adequate facilities like buildings, vehicles, computerisation and communication systems, etc.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **REVENUE ADMINISTRATION, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION DEPARTMENT**

#### **Re-Organisation of Jurisdiction**

The State is divided into 31 Districts consisting of 74 Revenue Divisions, 208 Taluks, 1120 Firkas and 16563 Villages.

In order to make the district administration more effective and responsive to public needs, to develop backward areas, to provide the required logistic support in times of Law and Order disturbances and natural calamities, and to implement the public welfare measures without any delay, some of the erstwhile unwieldy Districts were reorganized and new Districts formed.

The Honourable Chief Minister, considering the request of the various sections of public, announced in the Legislative Assembly on 25.07.2006 that the Ariyalur District, formed during the previous tenure of his Government and subsequently dropped by the successor Government, will be

reconstituted as the 31st District in the name of "Ariyalur District". Based on the announcement and keeping in view the wishes of the local people and on administrative grounds the Government, in GO.(Ms).NO.683, Revenue Department, dated.19.11.2007 ordered that Perambalur District be bifurcated into two Districts i.e., Perambalur District with headquarters at Perambalur and Ariyalur District with headquarters at Ariyalur. The new Ariyalur District started functioning with effect from 23.11.2007. After the bifurcation of Perambalur District, the total number of Districts in the State increased to 31.

In G.O(Ms) NO.636 Revenue Department, dated 31.10.2007, the Government ordered that the Chengam Taluk in Tiruvannamalai District be bifurcated as Chengam Taluk with Headquarters at Chengam and new Thandrampattu Taluk with headquarters at Thandrampattu. The newly formed Thandrampattu Taluk started functioning with effect from 01.11.2007.

In G.O(Ms) No.637, Revenue Department, dated 31.10.2007, the Government ordered that the Dindigul Taluk in Dindigul District be bifurcated as Dindigul Taluk with Headquarters at Dindigul and new Athur Taluk with headquarters at Athur. The newly formed Athur Taluk started functioning with effect from 01.11.2007. After the bifurcation of Chengam and Dindigul Taluks, the total number of Taluks increased to 208.

In G.O(Ms) NO.46 Revenue Department dated 29.01.2008, the Government ordered that the Dharmapuri Revenue Division in Dharmapuri District be bifurcated into Dharmapuri Revenue Division with Headquarters at Dharmapuri and new Harur Revenue Division with headquarters at Harur and the new Harur Revenue Division started functioning with effect from 13.02.2008. At present, there are 74 Revenue Divisions in the State.

The total population of the State as per 2001 census is 6,21,10,839.

## **2.2 Filling up of vacant posts in Revenue Department**

The vacant posts of Assistants, Junior Assistants, Typists, Steno-Typists coming under ministerial service and other posts such as Drivers, Office Assistants, Watchmen and Telephone Operators could not be filled up by this Department from 2001 to 2005 in view of the then prevailing ban orders on filling up of vacancies in Government Departments by direct recruitment. Considering the large number of vacancies in Revenue Department and the difficulties experienced in carrying out important works including the implementation of welfare schemes of the Government, orders were issued in 2006 and 2007 to fill up 3173 posts under various categories from Assistants upto Watchmen, during 2006-2007. Consequently, all the District Collectors sent requisitions to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission to fill up the vacant posts, by direct recruitment, of 224 Assistants, 486 Junior Assistants, 561 Typists and 62 Steno- Typists. The Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission

has recently conducted competitive examinations to fill up the above sanctioned posts. The filling up of the remaining approved vacancies for the year 2006-2007 by way of promotion, appointments on compassionate grounds, appointments through employment exchange etc. is nearing completion.

In G.O.(Ms) No.634, Revenue (Ser-10(2)) Department dated 22.09.2006, Government have ordered exempting the Revenue Department from the operation of the G.O.Ms.No.212, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, dated 29.11.2001 and Government Lr.No. 67770/P/01/1, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, dated 19.12.2001 and ordered to work out the estimate of vacancies taking into account the vacancies that may arise due to unexpected contingencies.

Accordingly, 559 vacancies for the drawal of list of Tahsildars and 700 vacancies for the drawal of list of Deputy

Tahsildars for 2007 have been approved. This has helped in providing better service to the people.

## **2.3 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION**

### **(i) Village Administrative Officers**

Village Administration has always been the central axis of District Administration. In District Administration, Village Administrative Officers are the fundamental and grass root functionaries. There are 12,506 posts of Village Administrative Officers for the 16,563 Revenue Villages of this State. Considering the vital role of the Village Administrative Officers, the Government have recently filled up 2500 vacancies by direct recruitment through Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. The Government have also sanctioned a sum of Rs.8,38,500/- for imparting training to the newly appointed Village Administrative Officers.

The Government have increased the special pension benefit to the ex-Village Officers from Rs.928/- to Rs.1,130/- with effect from 24.01.2008 vide G.O.(Ms).No.40, Revenue,

dated 24.01.2008. Thus 5,326 Ex-Village Officers are benefited by the enhanced special pension. The family pension for the ex-Village Officers has also been increased from Rs.150/- to Rs.400/- with effect from 24.01.2008 and a total of 4,169 family pensioners have been benefited by this order.

**(ii) Village Assistants**

The Government have accorded permission to fill up 3,674 vacancies of Village Assistants, by relaxing certain conditions, in the year 2006. So far, 2,095 Village Assistants have been newly appointed and recruitment to fill up the remaining vacancies through Employment Exchanges is under progress as per rules.

The special family pension for the ex-Village Assistants has also been increased from Rs.150/- to Rs.400/-, without any other allowances, with effect from 24.01.2008 and a total of 1,503 Village Assistants' family pensioners have been benefited by this order.

## **2.4 Distribution of Free Sarees and Dhoties**

Under this scheme, every year during Pongal, Sarees and Dhoties are distributed free of cost to those living below the poverty line. For Pongal 2008, a record number of 159.64 Lakhs Sarees and 158.98 Lakh Dhoties were distributed to the beneficiaries. The details of number of Sarees / Dhoties distributed during the past few years are given below: -

Year	Number Distributed (in Lakhs)	
	Sarees	Dhoties
2002	Nil	
2003		
2004	105.47	104.39
2005	109.75	109.08
2006	100.60	84.56
2007	155.41	155.27
2008	159.64	158.98

## **2.5 Mass Contact Programme**

This programme, which was started in the year 1969, aims at redressing the grievances of the public in a speedy

and problem free manner. Under this programme, Collectors, District Revenue Officers, Revenue Divisional Officers and Deputy Collectors, accompanied by officials of various Government Departments, visit the villages in their jurisdiction every month and redress the grievances put forth by the public on the spot. Villages are selected for conduct of this programme in rotation and the programme is conducted on the second Wednesday of every month. Every village is covered by this scheme once in three years.

As on 31.12.2007, 1,89,877 petitions have been disposed at the Mass Contact Programmes held throughout the State during 2007-2008.

## **2.6 Public Grievance Day**

This programme is being conducted every Monday since 1986 throughout the State. During this programme, the District Collectors, Revenue Divisional Officers and Tahsildars receive petitions from the public, hear their grievances and initiate necessary action for the redressal of

grievances of the public. Recently, instructions regarding the procedure for conducting the Grievance Day Programme and the follow up action to be taken on the petitions received from the public have been communicated to the districts to ensure better services to the public. The petitions received on the Grievance Day are immediately forwarded to the concerned officials with directions to initiate necessary action immediately. A white card is issued to the petitioners as a receipt for the petitions received from them.

3,50,636 petitions have been disposed till 31.12.2007 under this programme during 2007-2008.

## **2.7 Petitions received by Hon'ble Ministers, MPs and MLAs**

Petitions received by the Hon'ble Ministers and Members of the Parliament as well as Legislative Assembly during their visits to their constituencies are forwarded to the respective District Collectors for necessary action. The petitions received by the District Collectors are sorted Legislative Assembly/Parliamentary Constituency wise and

recorded in the registers maintained for each of the constituencies and further action initiated by the Collector's office. The petitioners are informed of the disposal given to their petitions.

Upto 31.12.2007, 43,355 petitions received by the Hon'ble Ministers/ MPs / MLAs have been settled under this programme during 2007-2008.

## **2.8 Certificates**

Amongst all the departments, since Revenue Department has the maximum interface with the public than any other department, the Government have accorded powers to the Revenue Department for issue of the following certificates which are required by the public:-

1. Community Certificate
2. Nativity / Residential Certificate
3. Income Certificate
4. Nationality Certificate
5. Legal Heirship Certificate
6. Solvency Certificate
7. Birth and Death Certificate
8. Certificate for Destitute Children
9. Destitute Widow Certificate
10. Inter-Caste Marriage Certificate

11. Certificate for the loss of School Certificate
12. Deserted Women Certificate
13. Consolidated Certificates issued for getting Government Assistance by unemployed persons
14. No Graduate in the family certificate
15. Family in indigent condition certificate

Students require Community Certificates, Income Certificates and Nativity/Residential Certificates to pursue higher studies and for employment. Soon on receipt, the applications for these certificates are subjected to necessary enquiry and certificates are issued expeditiously to those who are eligible.

#### **(i) Community Certificate**

The Government have been implementing the system of issuing printed permanent community certificates since 1988. This system reduces the unnecessary hardship faced by the Public. This certificate helps in securing admissions to the Education Institutions / Technical Education Institutions and also in getting employment.

Community Certificates are printed at Government Central Press, Chennai, every year and issued to the Public

through the Taluk offices. For the year 2007-2008, 19,42,000 Community Certificates have been printed and sent to all the District Collectors.

From the year 1999, the Government have been implementing a new system under which Community Certificates are issued through the schools and hence the students do not have to wait at the Taluk offices to obtain this certificate. Under this system, applications of those students who are studying in X or XII Std., and who have not yet obtained Community Certificates, are sent from the Schools with the attestation of the Headmasters of the schools to the concerned Tahsildars. After subjecting these applications to due enquiry by the Revenue officials, certificates are prepared and dispatched to the concerned schools. On completion of schooling, the certificates are issued to the students along with their Transfer Certificates.

**Details of issue of Community Certificates during the past years**

Year	B.C.	M.B.C.	D.N.C.	S.C.	S.T.	Total
1999-2000	3,20,734	1,79,470	47,000	1,67,783	7,641	722628
2000-01	3,26,056	1,00,943	50,641	90,000	6,568	574208
2001-02	2,70,376	2,00,164	50,194	1,60,925	4,740	686399
2002-03	5,34,846	2,57,924	68,713	3,89,041	9,678	1260202
2003-04	5,21,069	2,03,165	60,396	3,26,506	9,828	1120964
2004-05	5,34,846	2,84,724	74,903	3,89,041	9,674	1293188
2005-06	4,60,442	2,32,394	55,117	3,24,405	10,248	1082606
2006-07	6,09,797	2,88,710	62,477	3,63,393	13,184	1337561
2007-08 (upto 31.12.2007)	4,92,617	2,08,527	46,083	2,65,466	15,545	1028238

**(ii) Nativity / Residential Certificate**

This certificate is required for admission to Schools and for getting priority in employment opportunities. Those applicants who have resided in a particular place for more than 3 years continuously alone are eligible this certificate. This certificate is issued free of cost to those below poverty line and for others on payment of Rs.10/-.

### **(iii) Income Certificate**

This certificate which helps in sanction of scholarships and for securing admission to hostels in Schools/Colleges is issued free of cost to those below poverty line and at a fee of Rs.10/- to others.

### **(iv) Nationality Certificate**

This certificate is issued by the Tahsildar to certify the Indian nationality of the citizens. Citizens who desire to travel abroad require Nationality Certificate to obtain passport, visa etc. After subjecting the applications received for the issue of this certificate to proper enquiry by the Revenue Inspector, this certificate is issued.

### **(v) Legal Heirship Certificate**

When the head or a member of a family is deceased, the direct legal heirs of the deceased, wife or husband, son, daughter, father or mother may apply for the issue of Legal Heirship Certificate for transfer of movable or immovable properties in the name of the deceased and for sanction of

family pension. To obtain this certificate, the applicant has to apply with the original death certificate and a Court fee stamp of Rs.5/- Based on the report of the Revenue Inspectors after due enquiry with the neighbours, other villagers and the Village Administrative Officers, the Tahsildars issue this certificate mentioning the names of all the legal heirs of the deceased.

**(vi) Solvency Certificate**

This certificate is required to register as a contractor and for participating in tenders and auctions. The application for this certificate should be affixed with a Court fee stamp for Rs.10/-. This certificate is issued at a fee of Rs.100/- for property of Rs.50,000/- value and for every additional Rs.50,000/- value, a sum of Rs.200/- is charged as fee. The fee for this certificate should be remitted in the Treasury.

**(vii) Birth / Death Certificate**

The application for the certificate should be affixed with a Court fee stamp of Rs.5/- The certificate is issued by the

Headquarters Deputy Tahsildar based on the details recorded in the birth and death register being maintained in Taluk office or with the Village Administrative Officer. In Town Panchayats, this certificate is issued by the Executive Officer of the Town Panchayat and in Municipalities this certificate is issued by the Municipal Commissioner. In Corporations, these Certificates are issued by the Commissioner of the Corporation.

**(viii) Destitute Children Certificate**

This certificate is required for admission to the orphanages. On application, enquiries are made on the details of the parents of the child, whether the child is really an orphan and whether the child is really under the custody of a guardian and the certificate is issued by the Tahsildar.

**(ix) Destitute Widow Certificate**

This certificate is issued to the widows for claiming priority in job opportunities. After conducting enquiries on the

death of the applicant's husband, as to whether the applicant has remarried, whether she is supported by her relatives etc., the Tahsildar submits his report to the Revenue Divisional Officer. Based on this report, the Revenue Divisional Officer issues the certificate to eligible applicants.

#### **(x) Inter-caste Marriage Certificate**

In case of marriage between persons of two different communities (one belonging to SC or ST Community and the other belonging to other community), this certificate is issued after proper verification and enquiry by the Tahsildar. This certificate is useful for getting priority in employment and in securing admission to the couples' ward in Schools and for obtaining the assistances sanctioned by the Government.

#### **(xi) Certificates Regarding Loss of School Certificate**

Where the original School/College certificate is lost, this certificate is issued by the Tahsildar so as to help the individual to apply to the concerned authority for a duplicate

copy of the lost certificate. The application for this certificate has to be made to the Tahsildar along with a copy of the First Information Report registered by the Police Station and the report on the non-traceability of the lost certificate issued by the Police Station. After enquiries with the applicant and neighbours, this certificate is issued by the Tahsildar.

**(xii) Deserted Women Certificate**

If a married woman is deserted by her husband and lives alone continuously for a period of 5 years or more without any contact with her husband, she is considered to have been deserted by her husband. After conducting proper enquiry as to whether the applicant has permanently been deserted by her husband or is only temporarily living alone, this certificate is issued by the Tahsildar. This certificate helps in getting assistance from the Government.

**(xiii) Consolidated Certificates issued for getting Assistance by unemployed Persons**

The Government have introduced assistance to unemployed educated persons in Tamil Nadu who have registered with the Employment Exchange. This scheme is being implemented from the year 2006. Under this scheme, Rs.150/- per month is sanctioned to unemployed youth who have completed X std.; Rs.200/- per month to those who have completed Higher Secondary education and Rs.300/- per month to Graduates. For sanction of assistance under this scheme, a consolidated certificate is required by the applicants regarding income, unemployment status, completion of their studies in Tamil Nadu only, residence of parents, guardians or husband in Tamil Nadu. The required certificate is issued by the Revenue Department.

**(xiv) No Graduate in the family certificate**

This certificate is issued to those who do not have any graduate member in the family. This certificate helps in securing admission to Government Schools and Colleges.

### **(xv) Family in indigent condition certificate**

This certificate is issued to help poor people who are living in poverty to obtain benefits under the various welfare schemes of the Government.

### **2.9 Furniture to Village Administrative Offices**

There are 12506 Village Administrative Offices in the State. The Government have proposed to provide furnitures (Table, Chair etc.) to the V.A.Os in a phased manner. Accordingly, the Government have sanctioned funds for purchase of furniture (Tables, Chairs etc.) to 3,000 Village Administrative Offices, at a cost of Rs.10,000/- per Village Administrative Office in the first phase during 2007-2008.

### **2.10 Provision of Vehicles**

The Special Tahsildars (SSS) play a vital role in the implementation of the Social Security Schemes of the State which provide assistance to the aged, destitute and deserted women, physically handicapped, destitute Agricultural

labourers and bereaved families of accident victims who were bread winners. They are required to travel through the length and breadth of their Taluks to discharge their duties and for field verifications. Likewise, for effective supervision of Public Distribution Shops the Taluk Supply Officers are also in need of vehicle facility. So, the Government have provided Bolero Jeeps for the combined use of Special Tahsildars (SSS) and Taluk Supply Officers in 201 Taluks.

### **2.11 Provision of Cell Phone (Simcard) facility to Revenue Officials**

The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.19.53 lakh towards provision of Cell Phone (Simcard) facilities to 73 Revenue Divisional Officers and 206 Tahsildars during 2006-2007. This scheme has been implemented with effect from 01.03.2007. It helps in facilitating effective and timely communication between officials.

The Government have also sanctioned a sum of Rs.40.23 lakh during 2007-2008 towards provision of Cell

phone facilities to 370 Zonal Deputy Tahsildars and 1120 Revenue Inspectors.

## **2.12 Revenue Buildings**

### **(A) Office Buildings**

Revenue Department plays a vital role in the District Administration and hence provision of office buildings, infrastructure and vehicles required by the revenue machinery always receives priority from the Government. The Buildings under the control of Revenue Department include office and residential buildings of the Collectors, District Revenue Officers, Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, Village Administrative Officers, Cattle Pounds and Village Chavadis. Every year, requirements of the District Administration for construction of new/additional office/ residential buildings and infrastructure and for maintenance / repair of revenue buildings are adequately provided by the Government.

### **(i) Collectorate Buildings**

There are 31 Districts in the State. Of these, in 30 Districts, Collectorates are functioning in Government buildings. The construction of Ariyalur Collectorate will be taken up shortly. The Government have accorded administrative approval and sanctioned Rs.25 Crores for the construction of a multi storied building for the new Collectorate and other Government offices at Salem.

### **(ii) Revenue Divisional Offices**

The State has 74 Revenue Divisional Offices. Of these, 73 Offices are functioning in Government buildings. Construction of building for Harur Revenue Divisional Officers office will be taken up shortly.

### **(iii) Taluk Offices**

There are 208 Taluk Offices in the State, out of which 188 Taluk Offices are functioning in Government buildings. Construction of building for three Taluk Offices was sanctioned under Part II Schemes for 2005-2006 of which

works in Edapadi and Ettyapuram Taluk Offices have been completed. Of the balance 17 Taluk Offices, construction of 7 Taluk Offices has been sanctioned under Part II Schemes for 2006-2007 and 8 Taluk Offices under Part-II Schemes for 2007-2008. Construction of buildings for the newly formed Taluk Offices in Attur at Dindigul and Thandampattu at Tiruvannamalai District will be taken up shortly.

**(iv) Building for Village Administrative Officers**

Of the 12,506 Village Administrative Officers in the State, 226 Village Administrative Officers have been provided with office-cum-residence and 12,074 Village Administrative Offices have been provided with office buildings. Construction of buildings for the remaining 206 Village Administrative Offices will be taken up in the near future.

***(B) RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS***

**(i) Collector's Camp Office-cum-residence**

28 of the 31 District Collectors in the State have been provided with camp office-cum-residence. Construction of

Collector's camp office-cum-residence for Ariyalur and Nagapattinam will be taken up during 2008-2009.

**(ii) District Revenue Officers' Camp Office-cum-residence**

Of the 31 District Revenue Officers, 26 District Revenue Officers have been provided with camp office-cum-residence. The Government have sanctioned construction of camp office-cum-residence for the District Revenue Officers of Nagapattinam, The Nilgiris and Krishnagiri Districts. Construction of camp office-cum-residence for the District Revenue Office of Ariyalur will be taken up during 2008-2009.

**(iii) Revenue Divisional Officers' Quarters**

The State has 74 Revenue Divisional Officers of whom, quarters have been provided to 66. Construction of quarters for 7 Revenue Divisional Officers has been sanctioned under Part II Schemes for 2007-2008. The construction of Harur Revenue Divisional Office will be taken up.

#### **(iv) Tahsildars' Quarters**

Of the 208 Tahsildars, 179 Tahsildars have been provided with residential quarters. Construction of quarters for the remaining 29 Tahsildars will be taken up shortly.

#### **(v) Revenue Inspectors' Camp Office-cum-residence**

Revenue Department has 1120 Revenue Inspectors of whom, quarters have been constructed for 1084 Revenue Inspectors. Construction of Office-cum-residence for the remaining Revenue Inspectors will be taken up shortly.

### **2.13 Distribution of free Colour Television sets**

In fulfillment of one of the election promises, this scheme was introduced by the Government in the year 2006, with a view to provide recreation to women and also to facilitate improvement of the knowledge of the common people, especially women. This scheme directly benefits poor families who do not own colour television and is being implemented in a phased manner.

During the 1st phase of distribution which commenced on 15.09.2006, 30,000 colour televisions were distributed in all the Periyar Memorial Samathuvapurams to all the scheduled tribe families living in The Nilgiris District and to the people living in Slum Clearance Board tenements (one each in South and North Chennai). In the 2nd phase of distribution, 25,00,000 colour televisions were distributed in all the Districts. The Government have ordered the distribution of 34.25 lakh Free colour television sets in all the districts in the 3rd phase during 2008 and 5,21,514 colour television sets have already been distributed as on 31.03.2008.

To facilitate the successful implementation of free distribution of Colour Television scheme, the Government have sanctioned the posts of Special Deputy Collectors and Subordinate Staff, exclusively for the scheme, in all the districts. All the Deputy Collectors and all Tahsildars

implementing this scheme have also been provided with jeeps.

## **2.14 Land Revenue**

The Basic Assessment is fixed with reference to classification of soil, sort and source of irrigation. Based on the basic assessment so fixed, the other components viz., Local Cess, Local Cess Surcharge, Additional Assessment, Water Cess and Additional Water Cess Surcharge are levied. Land Revenue is being collected from the Pattadars without taking any coercive action.

In Fasli 1417, (01.07.2007 to 30.06.2008) out of the total collectable balance of arrears of Land Revenue of a sum of Rs.11,76,41,397/- has been collected upto 30.11.2007. A provisional demand of Rs.53,35,14,540/- has been assessed for Fasli 1417.

## **2.15 Natural Calamities**

Calamities are normally categorized as natural calamities and manmade calamities. A natural calamity is the consequence of a natural hazard met by human vulnerability and leads to financial, structural and life losses. Cyclone, flood, drought, earthquake, landslide, tsunami etc., are some of the natural calamities witnessed by the Indian sub-continent during the recent past. Disasters like fire accidents, bomb blasts, rail accidents, boat capsizes, chemical leakages from the factories and Oil spills into the sea are few examples of manmade calamities. While natural calamities can be managed to a great extent through mitigation measures and planning, manmade calamities are engineered by human intent and negligence and are thus rendered more hazardous to human community.

Mitigation of natural disasters by way of taking precautionary measures and post disaster relief and rehabilitation measures for the people affected is the primary responsibility of the Government. Since Revenue

Department plays a pivotal role in disaster management and is responsible for the implementation of precautionary measures and relief and rehabilitation measures formulated by the Government, besides management of natural disasters, this Department has been renamed as “Revenue Administration, Disaster Management and Mitigation Department.” The Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration has been designated as the ‘State Relief Commissioner’.

The Disaster Management activities in the State are carried out under the direct supervision of the Honourable Chief Minister, Revenue Minister, Chief Secretary, Revenue Secretary and the State Relief Commissioner. The relief measures are implemented and monitored at the State Level by the State Relief Commissioner assisted by the Joint Commissioner (Land Revenue) and, in the districts, by the Collectors concerned.

## **(i) Monsoon**

The State receives an annual rainfall of 977 mm, approximately 33% of which is received from the Southwest Monsoon and 48% from the Northeast Monsoon.

Normally, the Southwest Monsoon sets in by 31st May or 1st June every year and lasts till 30<sup>th</sup> September. In some years, this monsoon spills over to October also. The Nilgiris, Theni, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts receive copious rainfall during the Southwest Monsoon period.

Northeast Monsoon normally sets in during the 3rd week of October, after the withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon and rains during the monsoon are received as a result of trough of low pressure and cyclonic systems formed in the South Bay of Bengal. While the State gets copious rainfall during the Northeast Monsoon, the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu viz., Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai,

Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari are highly vulnerable to the cyclonic storms.

Though the State receives rainfall from both Southwest and Northeast Monsoons, the State's agriculture is more dependent on the Northeast Monsoon with the Western Ghats having rendered the State a rain shadow region, curtailing rainfall through the Southwest Monsoon. The complete geographical barrier formed by the Western Ghats block the Southwest Monsoon winds from passing through Kerala. While most parts of the country receive their major share of rainfall through Southwest Monsoon, Tamil Nadu is deprived of the advantage with only 1/3rd of the State's total precipitation contributed by the Southwest Monsoon. The Northeast Monsoon provides the major part of the precipitation in the State. Important agricultural seasons such as Samba, Thaladi, Navarai, etc., depend entirely on the Northeast Monsoon. Hence, the rainfall during October

to December plays a more important role in deciding the fate of the agricultural economy of the State.

## **(ii) Pre-Monsoon Preparedness Measures**

Based on the past experience in handling floods / cyclones, the State Government have codified all the preventive measures that need to be undertaken well in advance before the onset of Northeast monsoon. Contingency plans have also been prepared for all the districts and regular protective and preventive steps are initiated well ahead of the monsoon season, a drill which has been followed with considerable success over the years.

The coastal districts of Tamil Nadu are often affected by the trough of low pressure / depression / cyclone that form in the Bay of Bengal during the Northeast Monsoon season every year. An Anti-Disaster Plan is prepared and regularly updated in all the districts to mitigate the damages likely to be caused by the rain, flood and cyclone during the Northeast Monsoon.

Every year before the onset of the monsoon, Collectors of Coastal Districts are instructed to familiarize themselves with the contingency plan for their districts and to go through the drill to prepare themselves to meet all eventualities. The Collectors are also requested to keep the Government Schools in coastal areas ready to accommodate the flood victims, in case of emergencies. Besides the above, the Collectors are also requested to identify vulnerable tanks, which are likely to breach during the floods and to see that they are kept in good condition to withstand such threats. The Collectors are asked to maintain the vehicles at their disposal for use during flood relief operations. Specific instructions are issued to get all equipments intended for use during natural calamities tested for their usefulness, prior to the monsoon season.

Before the onset of Northeast Monsoon every year, a Pre-Monsoon Preparedness Meeting is conducted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary with the officers of all

line departments, IMD and Defence forces and necessary instructions are issued to the Collectors and to the officials of the line departments.

Further, a District Coordination Committee Meeting is also held at the district level under the Chairmanship of Collector with the line departments for taking precautionary measures and relief operations during Northeast monsoon period. An updated District Contingency Plan is prepared by the Collectors with reference to their past experiences and implemented in the districts.

As per G.O. No. 472, Revenue dated 06-11-2002 the Government have also formed a Relief Committee to monitor the relief operations during Northeast Monsoon period in Chennai Corporation limit.

The Government of India have revised the list of items and norms of assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for the period from 2005-2010. The Government in their orders

G.O.Ms.No. 630, Revenue Department, dated 29.10.07 have directed that the revised norms of Calamity Relief Fund issued by the Government of India, which envisages granting of enhanced relief to the victims of natural calamity be adopted with effect from 29.10.2007.

To provide immediate relief to the people affected by natural calamities, Collectors have been authorized to sanction relief assistance as given below:

a) An immediate relief of Rs.1 lakh to the family of each deceased person.

b) Relief at a rate of Rs.2000/- for damaged hut and Rs.1000/- for clothing per family, whose houses have been washed away / fully damaged / severely inundated for more than a week due to a natural calamity and Rs.1000/- for loss of utensils / household goods per family for fully damaged hut. One saree, one dhoti, 5 kg of rice and one litre of kerosene are also given free of cost to the affected families.

c) Relief at the rate of Rs.10,000/- per animal for loss of cow, buffalo and bullock, Rs.5000/- per calf for loss of calf of cow and buffalo and Rs.1000 per animal for loss of sheep and goat, with certain conditions.

Powers under Treasury Rule 27 have been delegated to the District Collectors in order to provide immediate cash relief to the affected people.

The following relief assistance are sanctioned for crops affected by floods / cyclone, based on the norms of relief fixed by the Government of India, as far as the small and marginal farmers are concerned:-

Assistance to small and marginal farmers for :	Rain fed areas
Agriculture input subsidy where crop loss was 50% and above.	Rs.2,000/- per hectare
For agriculture crops, horticulture crops and Annual plantation crops.	Rs.4,000/- per hectare in areas with assured irrigation.
Perennial crops	Rs.6000/- per hectare

### **(iii) Training on Disaster Management**

Before the onset of Northeast Monsoon, training is imparted to the officials of revenue, police, fire services, irrigation, highways departments and other professional bodies, local bodies and line departments at the State Level Training Institutions viz., Anna Institute of Management and State Institute of Rural Development. The above officials are also deputed to the training workshops on various aspects of disaster management held in other States. The Government makes a sizeable allocation of funds from the Calamity Relief Fund for conducting training programmes in the State Level Training Institution.

#### **(iv) Control Rooms**

A permanent Control Room is functioning in the office of the State Relief Commissioner with all the required infrastructure facilities, including VHF / HF facilities, to communicate with the coastal district Collectors. A toll free public utility services Telephone No.1070 has been installed for receiving information on disasters from the general public.

Besides the above, a permanent Telephone No.28593990 / Fax NO. 28410577 has also been installed in the control room. Arrangements are made for posting personnel to man the Control Room round the clock during the Northeast monsoon season and in other times of need. The Collectors are also instructed to establish Control Rooms at the Collectorates and to monitor the Northeast monsoon activities round the clock. The State Control Room functions under the direct control of the Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration / State Relief Commissioner, assisted by the Joint Commissioner (Land Revenue). From the year 2007 onwards, officials above the rank of Superintendent are posted to man the State Control Room during the monsoon so as to ensure effective monitoring of the situation. Besides, Officers in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner are posted to monitor the situation closely during calamities.

Apart from the State Control Room, control rooms have been established in all the districts with a telephone and a toll free public utility services telephone no.1077 for receiving and communicating information on various disaster related incidents by the general public. These district Control Rooms function under the control of the Collector, assisted by Personal Assistant (General) to the Collector. Arrangements have been made for manning the Control Room round the clock during the time of disasters and especially during the period of Northeast Monsoon. The control room acts as a fulcrum in matters related to preparedness and undertaking of relief measures based on the communication received from the IMD, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs and from other sources.

**(v) Two Way Communication of VHF / HF**

Two way Communication Systems of VHF / HF have been installed in all the 13 coastal districts viz., Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Viluppuram, Cuddalore,

Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukkudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari and in the office of the State Relief Commissioner. Instructions have been issued to the Collectors of coastal districts to utilise these communication systems effectively and extensively during the Northeast monsoon period. VHF systems have been installed in the Revenue Divisions and Taluks also.

**(vi) India Meteorological Department**

The India Meteorological Department communicates information on the activities relating to trough of low pressure / depressions / deep depressions and cyclonic storms, through fax and hot line, to the office of the Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration. Based on the information received from the IMD, instructions are sent from the office of the Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration to the Collectors. In addition to the above, the information

received from the IMD is also disseminated to the State Government and Government of India. During floods and cyclones, if the impact of natural disasters is expected to be severe in nature, information on the same is sent by IMD directly to the State Government, Ministry of Home Affairs and to the district Collectors through hotline telephone and fax.

#### **(vii) Rain gauge**

Tamil Nadu has 378 rain gauge stations. The rain gauge stations are well distributed throughout the State. Almost all rain gauge stations are of FRP (Fiber Reinforced Polyester) type. These rain gauge stations are periodically inspected by the India Meteorological Department and the Collectors rectify the defects pointed out by the IMD to ensure accurate readings of the rainfall.

#### **(viii) Daily Situation Report**

Rainfall details are collected throughout the year in Tamil Nadu. The Collectors gather daily rainfall data from the

Tahsildars at 8.30 a.m. The district rainfall details thus collected are sent to State Relief Commissioner's Office before 9.30 a.m through the web portal <http://intra.tn.nic.in/revenue>. The rainfall data, loss of human lives/ cattle and damages to dwellings are being received from the Collectors through the above web portal. The Office of the State Relief Commissioner sends the details on rainfall to IMD and Government before 10.00 a.m. every day. The State Relief Commissioner monitors the relief and rehabilitation measures every day on the basis of the Daily Situation Report.

#### **(ix)Cyclone Shelters**

There are 124 cyclone shelters in the State of Tamil Nadu. As ordered by the Government, 114 of the Cyclone Shelters have been repaired/ reconstructed at a cost of Rs. 251.05 Lakhs during 2005 through the Public Works Department.

#### **(x)Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)**

The following table gives the contribution to be provided by the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Calamity Relief Fund for Tamil Nadu State for the Twelfth Finance Commission period from 2005-2006 to

2009-2010 :-

(Rs. In Crores)

Year	Share of G.O.I. (75%)	Share of G.O.T.N. (25%)	Total
2005-06	156.81	52.27	209.08
2006-07	164.65	54.88	219.53
2007-08	172.88	57.63	230.51
2008-09	181.52	60.51	242.03
2009-10	190.60	63.53	254.13
Total	866.46	288.82	1155.28

Of the total contribution to the Calamity Relief Fund for each financial year, the Government of India contributes 75% in the form of a non-plan grant and the balance 25% amount is being contributed by the State Government.

### **(xi) National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)**

When damages of very severe nature are caused by natural disasters like cyclone, flood, earthquake, hailstorm, landslide, drought and fire accidents and the funds available under Calamity Relief Fund for the year are insufficient to cover the cost of restoration/ repair of damaged infrastructure and gratuitous relief, the Government of India sanctions funds from the National Calamity Contingency Fund for taking up relief / rehabilitation and restoration measures. This fund is exclusively administered by the Ministry of Finance and Expenditure, Government of India.

### ***(xii) State Level Committee on Calamity Relief Fund (SLC)***

The State Level Committee on Calamity Relief Fund to administer the Calamity Relief Fund, constituted in 1997, was re-constituted in the year 2000 with the Chief Secretary to Government as Chairman, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department as Member-Secretary, the Secretaries of Finance, Public Works, Agriculture, Highways, Municipal

Administration and Water Supply, Rural Development, Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Director of Anna Institute of Management as Members. The following are the functions of the State Level Committee:

- The Committee will decide on all matters connected with the financing of the relief expenditure
- The Committee will arrange to obtain the contributions from the concerned Government and administer the Fund and invest the accretions to the Fund in accordance with the pattern of the Investment as approved by the Government of India from time to time.
- The Committee shall also be responsible to oversee that the money drawn from the Calamity Relief Fund is utilized for the purposes for which the Fund has been set up.
- The responsibility for the administration of the Calamity Relief Fund rests with the State Level Committee. The

State Level Committee will have other functions as may be assigned from time to time based on the instructions of Government of India for the smooth functioning of the Calamity Relief Fund Scheme.

- The Scheme for the constitution and administration of the Calamity Relief Fund and Investment there from communicated by the Government of India is fully adopted and followed by the State Level Committee.

***(xiii) Northeast Monsoon 2007***

During the year 2007, the Northeast Monsoon set over the State on 22.10.2007. The State received 535.9 mm of rainfall which is 17% in excess of the normal rainfall of 459.22 mm. Most of the districts in the State experienced excessive rains resulting in widespread severe damages. Chennai is the only district to have recorded slightly deficit rainfall during Northeast Monsoon 2007.

A detailed memorandum on the damages has been submitted to Government of India requesting sanction of

funds to the tune of Rs.1531.89 Crore from the NCCF. (Rs.566.14 Crore for temporary restoration and Rs.965.75 Crore for permanent restoration) The Central Team led by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi visited the affected areas in the districts between 10.01.2008 and 12.01.2008. The State Government released an amount of Rs.200 Crore on 24.12.2007 for undertaking immediate relief and rehabilitation measures, without waiting for the release of funds from the Government of India.

During Northeast Monsoon 2007, 150 persons lost their lives. Relief has been sanctioned to the families of the deceased at the rate of Rs.1 Lakh per family per deceased person. Relief has also been sanctioned to the cattle owners for the 859 cattle loss and 31887 fully and partly damaged huts and 1,60,139.49 hectares of crop loss.

***(xiv) Unseasonal Heavy rain during March 2008 - Relief Measures***

The unprecedented and unseasonal rains all over the state during March 2008 has again caused extensive damage to agricultural crops and loss to life and property. It is estimated that an extent of about 47,000 hectares of paddy crops, besides other crops, have been damaged and about 24 human lives and more than 800 cattle have been lost due to these heavy rains. A detailed memorandum, giving details of the estimate of Rs.1139.78 crore total loss / damage (Rs.449.91 crore for temporary restoration and Rs.689.87 crore for permanent restoration) has been submitted to the Government of India. Based on Government's request, the Government of India has constituted a Central Team to visit the affected areas, assess the situation and to recommend the required assistance from NCCF/CRF. Meanwhile, the Government have released a sum of Rs.175 crore, for undertaking the immediate relief and rehabilitation measures from the Calamity Relief fund, to the affected Districts. Further, the Government as a special case, have issued

orders enhancing the existing relief being paid for the damage of per hectare of paddy crop from Rs.4000 to Rs.7500 to the farmers affected by the heavy rains. The existing ceiling on area for availing the relief in respect of all crops has also been removed i.e., the relief will be paid irrespective of the size of holding. Similarly, the relief being paid for the loss of cattle has also been ordered to be paid without any restriction on the number of cattles lost per household.

## **2.16 Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation.**

The Calamity which struck the Tamil Nadu Coast on 26.12.2004 was unprecedented in its suddenness scale and ferocity. Immediate Relief and Rehabilitation measures were taken to bring the fisheries, agriculture and other sectors affected by tsunami to normality. Housing reconstruction is the most challenging of the disaster recovery task in a Natural Calamity of this magnitude. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu reviewed the Tsunami rehabilitation

works on 24.06.2006 with all the district Collectors, Hon'ble Ministers and officials.

The following key decisions were taken:

- Speed up the reconstruction of houses, with amenities, by Non- Governmental Organizations and Government Agencies.
- Wherever the Non- Governmental Organizations backed out of the construction of houses, the same shall be constructed with Government funding.
- Mapping of Vulnerable areas and Construction of disaster resistant houses.
- Additional assistance package of nets, life jackets, lanterns, Heavy Duty bicycles and iceboxes to be given to fishermen who had already been assisted by Government or by Non-Governmental Organizations.
- Speedier Environment and Town Planning Clearances.

- Extending the educational fees concession for the students from the Tsunami affected families for one more academic year.

**(i) Housing:**

At the time of review by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 24.06.2006, the number of houses completed was 8406. As on 29.02.2008, 35,268 houses have been constructed. Out of this, the NGOs had constructed 28064 houses and Government had constructed 7204 houses. In addition to that, 6019 houses have been taken up for poor families not affected by tsunami including Irulas (Scheduled Tribes) (Cuddalore) and for families living close to sea (Kanniyakumari District) of which 5580 were completed as on 29.02.2008.

For provision of basic amenities to the housing habitations, the Government had so far sanctioned Rs. 82.56 crore. The basic amenities to be provided include water

supply, street lights, approach roads, internal roads, sanitation and electricity connection to the individual houses. In addition, the Government has sanctioned Rs. 84.72 crore for construction of 3912 NGO backed out houses, out of which the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department is constructing 2695 houses in rural areas and the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance board is constructing 1217 houses in Urban areas. Besides this, the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board will build 13000 tenements in and around Chennai for the tsunami affected families.

(ii) **Reconstruction of Vulnerable Houses in Coastal areas:**

The objective of the Government of Tamil Nadu is to reduce the Vulnerability of Coastal Communities with the following major components:

- 25234 houses will be constructed from 0-200m from HTL under Rajiv Gandhi Package which includes 9640 IAY and other Government financed houses which are 10 years old as on 1.1.2006.

- 29834 houses are proposed to be constructed from 201 m - 1000 m from HTL under World Bank aided Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Programme (ETRP).
- 150 Kms of Evacuation routes.
- 78 Evacuation shelters, each at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore.
- 997 Early warning systems in the coastal habitations.

The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.30.12 crore for undertaking survey of these houses and also for acquiring lands wherever relocation is necessitated. The Government had also sanctioned Rs. 552 crores for taking up construction of 22000 houses with the assistance of Government of India in 11 districts. The houses will be built by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in the rural areas and by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board in the urban areas. So far, by March 2008, the tender process is complete for 14880 houses by Rural Development

and Panchayat Raj Department and 2556 houses by Tamilnadu Slum Clearance Board.

**(iii) Land acquisition for construction of houses in Tsunami affected areas:**

Under Phase I housing programme, the Government had acquired 460 Hectares of land, through a voluntary negotiation process with the land owners, at a cost of Rs. 40.029 crore.

**(iv) Fisheries**

The Government had sanctioned Rs.110.36 Crore, as additional relief assistance to the tsunami affected fishermen who are already benefited, for the provision of heavy duty bicycles, rechargeable lanterns, life jackets, ice boxes and nets.

**(v) Other infrastructure Works undertaken :**

- Restoration and rehabilitation of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam ports damaged due to tsunami, construction of five new major bridges across rivers in Cuddalore (2 numbers), Nagapattinam (2

numbers) and Tiruvallur (1 number) which also serve as potential evacuation routes.

- 41 projects taken up under water supply and recharge structures.
- Reconstruction of 1050 kms of roads and drainages.
- Restoration and Rehabilitation of 6 fishing harbors, 6 fish landing centres, 263 public buildings.
- Improvement to solid waste collection and management system of 17 Town Panchayats.
- Repairing of 114 cyclone shelters, 5 Government buildings, and 2 memorials, repairing and reconstruction of 113 Animal Husbandry department buildings / hospitals, dispensaries, fodder banks veterinary sub-centres etc, 71 Health department buildings (Health sub centres and primary health centres), 33 Government Elementary, High, Higher Secondary Schools.

- Reclamation of 8175.35 hectares of agricultural lands, 669 hectares of horticultural lands and 4800 hectares of shelter belt and 2250 hectares of mangrove plantations have been raised in the Coastal districts affected by Tsunami.

**(vi ) Livelihood:-**

While the fisheries and agriculture sectors were revitalized with special packages, the Government, with the assistance of Asian Development Bank, implemented a massive livelihood restoration scheme by forming new Self-Help groups, assisting them with revolving fund, economic assistance, training, skill development and marketing support. So far, 38195 Self Help Groups have been provided with the revolving fund of Rs.102.36 Crore, 4305 Self Help Groups have been given economic assistance of Rs.39.40 Crore, 35725 Physically Challenged persons have been given an

assistance of Rs.35.73 Crore, and 155420 individuals have been given skill training at a cost of Rs.6.45 Crores.

## **2.17 Financial Aid for Tsunami Rehabilitation and Construction:-**

### **(i) Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Programme:**

A sum of Rs.2347.19 Crore, including Rs. 566.47 Crore loan amount to be directly given by banks to fishermen, was sanctioned under the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Programme for providing immediate relief, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, SGRY, Subsidy to fishermen, bank loans, fishing harbour grant and construction of houses to the families affected by tsunami.

### **(ii) World Bank – Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project (ETRP)**

An agreement for the implementation of the Emergency Tsunami Rehabilitation Project was signed between Government of Tamil Nadu, Government of India and the World Bank on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2005. The Project is operational from 09.08.2005. The project period is likely to

be extended upto 31.12.2010. It is an interest free assistance. However, a service charge of 0.75% is to be borne by the Government. The amount will have to be repaid in 25 years beginning from 2015 in half yearly installments upto 2040.

The World Bank has agreed to sanction a sum of Rs.1852.74 Crore (US\$ 423 million) for the following activities:

- Rs.1551.40 Crore is provided to improve transit shelters for tsunami affected families for providing temporary accommodation, for housing reconstruction and the provision of basic amenities, and insurance cover for 10 years for the houses constructed.
- Rs.122.20 Crore is provided for restoration of livelihood of tsunami affected families engaged in fishing, agriculture, horticulture and livestock,

reclamation of damaged agricultural and horticultural lands.

- Rs.85.41 Crore is provided for repair and reconstruction of primary health centres, damaged hospitals, health sub-centres, Cyclone Shelters, Public buildings, restoration of damaged river and drain banks, and also raising of 4800 hectares of shelter belt and 2250 hectares of mangrove plantations.
- Rs.41.17 Crore is provided to strengthen the institutional capacity of the State Government and other entities involved in the implementation of the project by providing technical assistance and capacity building for housing reconstruction in the tsunami affected areas.
- Rs.52.56 Crore is provided to assist the State Government in Project Management and supervision through undertaking technical and

financial audits, quality assurance, appointment of specialists, provision of Staff, Office equipment, furniture and vehicles in implementing the project.

Out of Rs.525.70 Crore sanctioned for various departments for implementation of the project, a sum of Rs.148.11 Crore has been spent till 29.02.2008. A restructuring proposal titled “ Vulnerability Reduction of Coastal Communities “ at a cost of about Rs.1087.82 Crore has been proposed to World Bank and is awaiting their approval.

**(iii) Asian Development Bank – Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project (TEAP).**

An agreement between Asian Development Bank, Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu for implementation of Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project (TEAP) was signed on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2005. The ADB had agreed to sanction a sum of Rs. 629.64 Crore. Out of the total amount of Rs.629.64 Crore given by ADB, interest will be charged for Rs.295.88 Crore and the remaining Rs.333.76

Crore is given as grant. The amount will have to be repaid from the year 2013 to 2037. The project period is till April 2008, and is likely to be extended upto 31.10.2009.

The ADB funds are provided for the following activities

:-

- Rs.218.96 Crore is provided for restoration of livelihood of tsunami affected families.
- Rs.100.74 Crore is provided for restoration of damaged water supply and drainage systems, upgrading of affected water supply systems into multi-village systems with more reliable source development.
- Rs.9.68 Crore is provided for design and construction supervision and Rs.4.38 Crore for incremental support.
- Rs.39.86 Crore is provided for restoration of roads, drainage structures and bridges.

- Rs.77.53 Crore is provided for taking up infrastructure facilities to Nagapattinam and Cuddalore minor ports and 12 other fishing harbours in the Coastal districts.
- Rs.35.04 Crore is provided for upgradation of Municipal Infrastructure such as roads, public buildings, sanitation etc.
- Rs.143.45 Crore is provided for restoration and upgradation of rural infrastructure.

Out of Rs.633.67 Crore sanctioned for various departments, Rs.408.26 Crore is spent till 29.02.2008.

**(iv) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

For rehabilitation works in tsunami affected areas, a sum of Rs.67.50 Crore has been granted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development. This scheme is implemented in 6 coastal districts, namely, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thiruvallur and

Kanniyakumari through the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. The service charges for this scheme will be 0.75% per annum only. The MOU was signed on 11.11.2005. The project will be implemented in 8 years. The amount will be repaid in the period between October 15, 2015 to April 15, 2045.

**(v) Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction Released By Asian Development Bank**

It has been proposed to implement a scheme with a financial assistance from Japan Government to an extent of Rs.16.70 Crore through Asian Development Bank for restoration and diversification of livelihoods of tsunami affected poor and marginalized people in the State. The project period for implementation is 4 years, till October 2010. An agreement has been signed by the Government of Tamil Nadu for this purpose on 27.09.2006. The Government of India has also signed the agreement on 04.10.2006.

Administrative sanction for the project has been given in G.O. (Ms) No.118, Revenue Department dated 08.03.2007.

**2.18 Disaster Risk Management Programme sponsored by Government of India and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

With a view to reduce the vulnerability of communities to natural disasters in identified multi hazard prone areas, the Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are implementing the Disaster Risk Management Programme in a number of States. In Tamil Nadu, this programme is being implemented in the districts of Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Kanniyakumari and The Nilgiris Districts. The goal of the programme is sustainable reduction in natural disaster risks in these districts. The thematic focus will be on awareness generation and education, training and capacity building for mitigation and better preparedness in terms of disaster risk management and recovery at community, district and state levels. This programme is entirely funded by the UNDP and

the total outlay is Rs.6.71 Crore (14,75,022 US \$). The programme will be completed by December 2008.

Under this programme, Government officials, members of Panchayat Raj Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations have been sensitized. Their number is about 27,000. Additionally, another 51,000 village volunteers have also been given training. 4152 teachers and 37,200 NSS volunteers have also been trained. 6511 disaster management plans have been prepared at the Panchayat and village levels. Disaster Management Plans have also been prepared in all the 6 districts at the district level and in 55 blocks at the block level.

Emergency Operation Centres have been constructed in Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Kanniyakumari and construction has reached an advanced stage in Nilgiris District and also at the State Level.

The Government of India and United Nations Development Programme have decided to include the

coastal Districts of Villupuram, Thiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi under the Disaster Risk Management Programme.

## **CHAPTER - III**

### **LAND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

The Revenue Department administers all the Government lands including those vested with the various Departments of the State Government.

Land Administration Department deals with various important Revenue subjects such as Assignment (cultivable land / house site), lease, Transfer of land, Alienation, Acquisition, Estate/ Inam Abolition Acts, Cinematograph Act, (under Home Department), Eviction of encroachments in Government lands, Irrigation etc.

These Government lands are allotted to private individuals, Government Departments and Quasi Government Organizations by way of Lease, Transfer, Alienation, Land Acquisition and Assignment.

#### **3.2 ASSIGNMENT:**

Government lands are being assigned for housing and agricultural purposes.

**(i) Assignment of House sites:**

Provision of house sites to the houseless poor persons is the consistent policy of the Government to uplift the weaker sections of the society. House sites are being assigned to houseless poor people, having family's annual Income below Rs.16,000/- in rural areas and Rs.24,000/- in Urban areas. In order to provide dignity and empowerment to womenfolk, house sites are assigned in the name of the wife or woman member of the family. An extent of three cents in villages, one and a half cents in Municipal areas and one cent in Corporation areas is being assigned as per Revenue Standing Order 21. Pattas are issued with special conditions that the assignee should construct a house within the stipulated period and they shall not sell alienate the house site within 10 years from the date of assignment.

However, the assignees are permitted to mortgage the house site with the Nationalised Banks for availing loan under Credit-Cum-Subsidy scheme of the Rural Housing Schemes Viz. Indira Awaas Yojana and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana to construct houses in the assigned lands.

The following order of preference is followed in assigning house sites :-

- i) Families of defence personnel, including Border Security Force, Territorial Army Personnel etc., killed or disabled in action.
- ii) Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes
- iii) Released Bonded Labourers
- iv) Ex-Servicemen
- v) Landless Poor.

In order to ensure that benefit reaches the eligible persons quickly, the various levels of Revenue Officers are delegated with the following monetary powers of assignment:-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>	<b>MONETARY LIMIT</b>
1	Tahsildar	Rs.10,000/-
2	Revenue Divisional Officer	Rs.20,000/-
3	District Revenue Officer	Rs.50,000/-
4	District Collector	Rs.2,00,000/-
5	Commissioner of Land Administration	Rs.2,50,000/-
6	Government	Above Rs. 2,50,000/-

During 2007-2008, as per the announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, a target of 3,00,000 house site pattas was fixed for the state. Under this scheme, 3,98,668 house site pattas have been issued upto 17.03.2008.

## **ii) Regularisation of encroachment:**

In order to help the poor and downtrodden people who have encroached the poramboke lands by way of dwelling houses for more than 10 years, the Government issued orders to regularise their encroachment under the One Time Special Scheme introduced in G.O. (Ms.) No. 854, Revenue, dated 30.12.2006. Under this scheme, a Committee under the chairmanship of the District Collector can grant house site pattas to those who are living in unobjectionable Government Poramboke lands for more than 10 years and produce proper evidence for their occupation and eligibility. The validity of the scheme was initially for a period of six months from January 2007 and subsequently extended up to 31.03.2008.

In order to implement the scheme effectively, certain powers have been delegated to District Collectors,

- (i) Under the one time special scheme, the Collectors can regularise encroachments without any limit on monetary value of the land. The monetary powers of the Collectors under regular house site scheme is increased from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs.

- (ii) Under the one time scheme, the Collectors are given powers to delete the Government poramboke lands from Prohibitory Order Book and effect change of classification of poramboke lands to natham for house site assignment under regular scheme also.

For this special scheme, the annual income ceiling limit to get free house site assignment is withdrawn and the assignable extent has also been revised upto 4 cents in Rural areas, 2 ½ cents in Municipal areas and 2 cents in Corporation areas. The land cost already paid by the beneficiaries for obtaining house site pattas in this scheme from 30.12.2006 onwards, will be reimbursed to them after due verification. In G.O. (Ms) No. 34, Revenue Dated 23.01.2008, orders were issued that this scheme will also be applicable to those who are living in Government poramboke for more than 5 years by way of dwelling houses.

### **(iii) Assignment Of Cultivable Lands**

The Government is granting assignment to the landless rural poor to alleviate rural poverty and to improve the standard of living of the poor and downtrodden community. Lands are

assigned under the provisions of the Revenue Standing Order 15 for the purpose of cultivation. Free assignment is given to those whose family's annual income is below Rs.16000/- in rural areas, and Rs.24,000/- in urban areas, irrespective of the size of the family. The order of preference and the monetary limit for assignment of land for agriculture is the same as in the case of house site assignment.

### **3.3 THE SCHEME OF DISTRIBUTION OF 2 ACRES WASTE LAND TO THE FAMILIES OF LANDLESS POOR AGRICULTURISTS**

**(G.O.(Ms.)No.555, Revenue Department, Dated 26.08.2006):**

The Scheme for distribution of Government Waste lands to Landless Poor Agricultural Families covers the following three categories:-

- i) Assignment of Government Poramboke lands free from encroachment.
- ii) Assignment of Government Poramboke lands encroached upon by landless, marginal and small farmers.
- iii) Development/Reclamation of patta waste lands owned by small and marginal farmers.

Modalities and procedures for selection of beneficiaries in an open and transparent manner by the Village Committees and the Grama Sabhas were evolved. This apart, the land is distributed to the landless only after necessary land development and reclamation wherever required, dovetailing with various schemes being executed by the Agriculture and Rural Development Departments.

This scheme was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister on 17.9.2006 at Tiruvallur District and simultaneously by the Ministers in other districts. Till now, a total of 6 phases of distribution have been inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister at Tiruvallur (17.9.2006), Villupuram (17.12.2006), Thiruvannamalai (17.3.2007), Thirunelveli (17.6.2007) and Erode (29.12.2007) respectively.

The details of free distribution of land under this scheme so far are as follows:-

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Land Distributed (in acres)</b>
1st Phase (17.09.2006)	23,440	24,271.14
1st Phase (Madurai 11.11.2006)	918	1,010.97
2nd Phase (17.12.2006)	26,749	25,805.53

3rd Phase (17.03.2007)	20,648	26,029.61
4th Phase (17.06.2007)	19,821	24,505.86
5th Phase (17.09.2007)	24,932	32,065.61
6th Phase (29.12.2007)	21,486	26,982.62
Achievement from 30.12.2007 to 17.03.2008	1,32,70	18,040.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,51,264</b>	<b>1,78,711.48</b>

As against only 29,074 acres of lands distributed to 51,509 landless poor agriculturalists in the 5 years (2001-2006), so far, from 17.09.2006 to 17.03.2008 (during the last 18 months) as much as 1,78,711.48 acres of land have been developed and assigned to 1,51,264 landless poor agriculturalists.

### **3.4 LAND LEASE**

Lands at the disposal of the Government when requested, are granted, on lease basis for non-agriculture purposes in favour of individuals, private bodies, companies, societies, associations, trusts and local bodies for a specified period ranging from minimum 3 years to maximum 30 years under Revenue Standing Order 24-A.

Lease rent, per annum is fixed on the land cost depending upon whether it is for commercial or non-commercial purpose.

The rates of annual lease rent in force (as percentage of land value) in respect of land which falls within the jurisdiction of Panchayat and Panchayat union areas are as follows:

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lease rent on land cost</b>	<b>Local Cess on land cost</b>	<b>Local Cess Surcharge on land cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
Non-Commercial	1 %	1 %	5 %	7 % p.a.
Commercial	2 %	2 %	10 %	14 % p.a.

In respect of lands within the jurisdiction of the Corporations and Municipalities, the existing rates of annual lease rent are as follows:

(i)	for Non - Commercial purpose	---	7% p.a. on the land cost. (Including additional surcharge)
(ii)	for Commercial purpose	---	14% p.a. on the land cost. (Including additional surcharge)

The annual lease rent is subject to the condition that it is revisable once in 3 years.

Besides the above rates of annual lease rent, nominal annual lease rent is also being fixed by the Government in special cases based on merit.

In case of violation of lease conditions contained in the lease deed, as provided under Revenue Standing Order 24A, the land shall be resumed by the Government.

During the year 2007-2008, lease under RSO 24A have been granted in respect of individuals, Trusts, Associations, Educational Institutions and Companies measuring approximately an extent of 80 Acres.

### **3.5 TRANSFER OF LAND**

Government Poramboke lands are transferred to Central Government Departments under Revenue Standing Order 23, on collection of market value. For State Government Departments, lands are transferred, free of cost, under Revenue Standing Order 23-A for the Non - Commercial Purpose (viz.) School Building, Hospitals, Primary Health Centres. For commercial purpose, the lands are transferred on collection of market value under Revenue Standing Order 24.

The Collectors are empowered to transfer small extent of unobjectionable poramboke lands, at free of cost, to the Departments like Transport, Health, Education and Police. When the lands transferred to the departments if not fully utilised for the

purpose for which they were transferred, such lands are resumed and re-allotted to other needy departments.

The Meikal and Mandaiveli poramboke lands are transferred to other departments after selecting alternate lands for the equal extent and after payment of development charges @ Rs.6,000/- per acre or Rs.15,000/- per hectare to the Local Panchayat.

Details of Transfer of land and Enterupon permission granted, to various Departments, from April 2007 to March 2008 are as follows:-

			Extent (In Hectares)	Total (In Hectares)
1.	Transfer of Government land	State Government Departments	260.94.80	<b>573.45.03</b>
		Central Government Departments	312.50.23	
2.	Enterupon Permission	State Government Departments	1.00.00	<b>3.32.40</b>
		Central Government Departments	2.32.40	

### **3.6 ALIENATION OF LAND**

Government poramboke lands are alienated to the Government undertakings, Local bodies, Universities, Information Technology parks, Industrial Establishments etc., under Revenue Standing Order 24, subject to certain conditions, in the interest of public cause and social and economic development.

For the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, lands are alienated free of cost for construction of tenements for slum dwellers. For other purposes, land is allotted to the Board, after collecting a nominal value of Rs.5,000/- per ground. Lands are alienated free of cost to the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board and Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board. In respect of other requisitioning bodies and for other purposes, lands are alienated on collection of single market value or more. Lands are alienated to the Transport Corporations for establishment of Bus Terminals and Passenger Bus Stands on collection of 50% of the market value. If conditions of alienation are violated, the alienated lands are liable to be resumed by the Government without any compensation.

Government, in their letter (Ms) No.477, Revenue dated 23.08.2007, have ordered that the Government have decided to

collect single market value for the lands alienated to SIPCOT in future.

Government, in their G.O.(Ms) No.732, Revenue LD5(1) Department, dated 13.12.2007, have ordered to collect single market value for the lands alienated to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board for establishment of EB Sub-Stations, etc.

During the year 2007 (Jan-Dec), approximately an extent of 1435 Acres of Government Poramboke lands were alienated / enter upon permission granted to ELCOT / SIPCOT/ TNEB etc.

### **3.7 EVICTION OF ENCROACHMENTS**

As per the land Encroachment Act, 1905 unauthorised occupation of Government lands is an offence. As such, it is the paramount duty of the entire revenue machinery to evict the encroachments by invoking the provisions of the Land Encroachment Act 1905.

The incident of grabbing of Government Lands by the encroachers have increased considerably of late, particularly in the Government road margins, tanks, rivers, lakes, ponds and

other water course porambokes. Due to the encroachments in the above places, the overall production of food grains and the capacity of water storage for public uses are being adversely affected. In the districts, the District Collector is empowered to conduct meetings and meetings are regularly convened with the officials of land owning organisations like Public Works Department, Forest, Police etc., to review progress. Instructions are issued to evict the encroachments after following the provisions of Land Encroachment Act 1905 (viz.) in the District, In order to prevent the above encroachments, the Government have also constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Revenue and Housing) having official members as Chief Secretary, Secretaries of concerned Government departments, Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Land Administration, and Non Official members such as two MLAs, six members one each from six Corporations and two members one each from two Municipalities.

To monitor the progress of eviction and encroachment, the High Level Committee last met on 19.12.2007, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Housing.

Upto 15.03.2008, 1,36,046 encroachments were evicted from Government poramboke lands during the year.

### **3.8 TREE PATTA SCHEME**

The Tree Patta Scheme known as 2C patta is under implementation in the State for several decades. Under this scheme, the right to use the leaves, fruits and other usufructs of the trees standing on the Government poramboke land are granted to the adjacent land owners or other eligible persons who can take care of the trees. However, the rights over the trees as well as the land, continue to vest with the Government. Women belonging to depressed classes are given preference under this Scheme.

Under the new Special Tree Development programme, the rural landless poor women below the poverty line are exclusively chosen as beneficiaries and issued tree planting permits for growing trees on earmarked lands belonging to Government or Panchayats, with the condition to plant trees

within a period of two years. Depending upon the survival of plants and two years after the grant of permit and after verification, tree pattas are granted to the permit holders.

### **3.9. LAND ACQUISITION**

The Government acquires land under Land Acquisition Act, 1894, Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Harijan Welfare Schemes Act, 1978 (Tamil Nadu Act 31/1978) Tamil Nadu Highways Act 34/2002 and Industrial Purposes Act 10/1999 for implementing various Welfare schemes and Projects.

#### **Land Acquisition Act**

Generally, lands are acquired for establishment of Industries, construction of Irrigation tanks, dams, channels, construction of houses for the members of Backward Class and Most Backward Class Communities who do not have their own dwelling on account of their poverty and other factors. When lands are acquired for industrial purposes, the industries provide direct/ indirect employment to educated unemployed youth/technically skilled persons while at the same time giving a boost to the all around growth in those areas.

Lands are also acquired for construction of bridges, overbridges, extension of Roads, construction of Railway overbridges and underground sub-ways. The procedure laid down to acquire the lands under the said Acts are scrupulously followed and compensation is paid to the land owners based on set procedures and guidelines.

**The Monetary limits for passing award are as follows:-**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Officers</b>	<b>Monetary Limit</b>
1	Tahsildars/Special Tahsildars	Upto Rs.2,50,000 (Rupees Two lakhs and fifty thousand only)
2	Revenue Divisional Officers/ Officers in the grade of Deputy Collectors	Above Rs. 2,50,000 (Rupees Two lakhs and fifty thousand only ) Upto Rs.7,50,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh and Fifty Thousand only)
3	Collectors/ Additional Collectors/ District Revenue Officers	Above Rs.7,50,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand only) upto Rs.20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Only)
4	Commissioner of Land Administration	Above Rs.20,00,000/- (Above Rupees Twenty Lakhs)

In order to accelerate the pace of progress in Land Acquisition work, Government also accord sanction for appointment of special staff as per the norms set forth in G.O. (Ms.) No.2556 Revenue, dated 10.12.1975, G.O. (Ms.) No.205,

Revenue, dated 10.03.1993 and G.O. (Ms.) No.285 Revenue, dated 10.02.1966.

The Government have also issued orders in G.O. (Ms.) No.885, Revenue dated 21.09.95 and G.O. (Ms.) No.1246, Revenue dated 22.11.96 constituting the District and State Level Committees to expedite the acquisition of land through private negotiation.

As per the said Government Orders, if negotiated value of the land is below Rs.20 lakhs and below 150% of GLR value or Market value whichever is less, the District Level Committee is empowered to purchase the land through private negotiation. If the negotiated value exceeds Rs.20 lakhs and is within 150% of GLR value or Market value whichever is less, the State Level Committee is empowered to approve the purchase. If the negotiated value is above Rs.20 lakhs and above 150% of GLR value or Market value whichever is less, the order of the Government is obtained to purchase the land. The benefits of purchasing land through private negotiation are as follows:-

- a) The land could be taken possession of immediately for implementing the Scheme.

- b) The inherent delays and concomitant time and cost over runs, noticed in the land acquisition, are avoided.
- c) The expenditure incurred on publication of 4(1) notification and Draft Declaration Under Section 6 in the dailies is saved.
- d) The problems of prolonged court cases challenging the land acquisition process causing abnormal delays and eventual payment of enhanced compensation are largely avoided.

In order to redress the grievances of the project affected families, adoption of the National Rehabilitation Policy 2007, evolved by Government of India is under consideration of this Government, in consultation with Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Land Administration.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT**

This department is the authority for land survey and preparation of cadastral survey maps in the State. The history of land survey in this State dates back to the year 1002 AD when the great King Rajaraja I of Chola dynasty conducted an organized and accurate land survey. In the modern period, in the year 1857, Madras Survey was formed and in 1858 survey was commenced. Commemorating this event, the department celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. The various schemes in progress are detailed below.

#### **4.2 Cadastral Survey Schemes**

##### **(i) Town Survey:**

Total area surveyed so far under Town Survey scheme is 1779 Sq.Km. The details are as follows:

SI.No.	Details	Municipalities	Corporations
1.	Total No. of Towns/ Corporations	150	8
2.	Taken up for survey	83	7
3.	Completed	81	5
4.	Progress	2**	2**
5.	To be taken up	67	1*

\* Tiruppur and Erode have been recently upgraded as Corporations. Town Survey is already in progress in Tiruppur . In the two municipalities and two corporations where the work is under progress , the survey work is being done using modern survey equipments.

\*\* Municipalities - Kathivakkam in Thiruvallur district Cumbum in Theni district  
Corporations - Chennai and Tiruppur

**(ii) Natham Survey:**

The details of completion of Natham Survey are as follows:

SI.No.	Details	Total No. of taluks
1.	Total Taluks	208
2.	Work completed	200
3.	Work in progress	2 *
4.	Remaining	6 **

\* Work is in progress in Ambattur taluk of Thiruvallur district and Tambaram taluk of Kancheepuram district

\*\* Of the remaining 6 taluks, 5 are in Chennai district and 1 (Shencottai taluk) in Tirunelveli district in which Ground Rent survey has been completed.

**(iii) Resurvey:**

- Resurvey of the State was last conducted during the year 1958, using conventional survey instruments like chain, cross staff, theodolite, etc.
- The Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned funds under Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records programme for conducting resurvey of the entire State in a phased manner, using modern survey instruments like Global Positioning System & Total Station equipments. Notification to this effect has been published in the State Gazette. Accordingly, resurvey is being taken up in 4 districts viz. Coimbatore, Dindigul, Thanjavur & Vellore.

### **4.3 Computerization of Land Records (CLR) Programme**

#### **(i) Computerization of Village Records:**

- This programme is fully funded by Government of India
- Computers and accessories have been supplied to all the Taluks, Revenue Divisional Offices, District Collectorates and also to the Commissionerate of Survey and Settlement.
- 'A' Register, 10(1) chitta of all rural villages have been computerized. Touch Screen Computer Kiosks (TSCK) have been installed in 127 taluks for public use. A sum of Rs.21.17 crores has been collected through the issuance of computerized land records extracts.
- Adangal data in all districts (except Chennai) have been computerized.
- Computerization of Urban Land Records is in progress in Chennai district. This will be extended to other urban areas soon.

## **(ii) Digitization of Field Measurement Sketches:**

- GOI have sanctioned funds for digitization of FMS through outsourcing. With a view to ensure greater accuracy, the GOTN have ordered to implement this project using department staff.
- 'COLLABLAND' software developed by NIC is to be used for digitization.
- To install the computer cell, an area of around 1000 sq.ft. has been identified in each district and site preparation is in progress.
- 20 computers and accessories have been supplied to each district.
- It is proposed to utilize high-end Computer servers and TNSWAN for connectivity.
- The work will commence shortly and it has been proposed to complete it in about 2½ years.

## **4.4 Detailed Project Report:**

Subsequent to the formation of the State Apex Committee and e-governance groups under the National e-Governance Action Plan, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for online land records management has been prepared at a cost of Rs.50.90 crores and has been sent to the Government of India. Sanction of funds is awaited. In the meantime, web based applications for land records management are being developed through ELCOT.

#### **4.5 Modernization of the Department :**

- A Computerized Cartographic Centre (CCC) is functioning in the Central Survey Office, Chennai.
- Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned an amount of Rs.34.56 lakhs for strengthening the CCC during the year 2006-07. Using this fund, CCC has been modernized by supply of additional Servers, Client & Computers. A few more equipments such as A 0 size Plotters, Mapping software, etc. will be supplied soon.
- Using the funds provided by the State and Central Government under the Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records programmes, all the Village maps have been scanned

and preserved at the Computerized Cartographic Centre. Scanning of all the Survey and Settlement records available at the State Archives has also been proposed.

- Various kinds of maps are also being prepared in the Computerized Cartographic Centre. A sum of Rs.29.40 lakhs has been collected through the sale of these maps to the public.
- It is proposed to computerize the Central Survey Office using the funds to be provided during the financial year 2008-2009 by the Government.
- Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned funds Rs.136.50 lakhs for supplying A0 size Colour Plotters to all the district survey units. This will facilitate preparation and sale of maps to public at the district survey units. This will also help to reduce the hardships faced by the public who have to travel all the way to Chennai to get maps.
- Computerization of the Commissionerate has also been taken up to facilitate effective and close monitoring of all the schemes.

- Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned funds Rs.30 lakhs to supply Xerox machines and Fax machines to 30 District Survey Units.

#### **4.6. Training & Capacity Building:**

- Government of India have sanctioned an amount of Rs.171.36 Lakhs for imparting training to staff.
- Basic training on computers have been given to 8521 officials of both Revenue and Survey department.
- Training in Land Records application software has also been given to Deputy Tahsildars / Tahsildars .
- Specialized training in modern survey instruments has been given to 1004 survey staff at the Centre for Survey Training and Research (C-STAR).
- Training for using Digitization software will be provided soon to survey staff in all the districts.
- Advanced training to field staff will be provided for undertaking resurvey.

#### **4.7 Others :**

- During 2007-2008 Compassionate ground appointment has been given to 108 persons and 59 qualified Field Assistants have been appointed as Field Surveyors by transfer and promotion.
- Funds have been provided to purchase 16 New Jeeps and one van to the Survey and Land Records Department during the financial year 2008-2009.

#### **4.8 SETTLEMENT**

After independence, the Government enacted various Settlement Acts with a view to bring large-scale agrarian reforms, abolished all intermediaries between the Government and the ryots and also introduced Ryotwari settlement in such estates. The introduction of Ryotwari settlement under all settlement acts have been completed except in certain villages which have been taken over under Tamil Nadu Acts 26/1963, 30/1963 and 24/1969 as they were covered by court cases.

The settlement works in respect of 2 villages and survey works in respect of 3 villages are in progress out of 15 pending

villages which have been taken over under the Tamil Nadu Acts, 26/1963 and 30/1963.

The introduction of settlement has been completed in respect of 28,087.03 acres of janmam lands out of the total 80,087.74 acres of lands taken over under the Tamil Nadu Act 24/1969. Certain janmies and leaseholders had filed civil appeals before the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi. As a few among them had withdrawn their appeal petitions, the Supreme Court of India dismissed their appeals as withdrawn and directed the Government to pass necessary orders regarding their plea under section 9 or 17 of the Act. The Supreme Court has referred certain other civil appeals and a writ petition to a larger bench consisting of 9 judges to decide the constitutional validity of the inclusion of the Act in the 9<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution of India. Another writ petition No. 408/2003, filed by the Nilambur Kovilagam, a janmi, is pending before the Supreme Court of India. The nine judges bench, in its judgement dated 11.01.2007, has ordered that the validity of the Acts included in the 9<sup>th</sup> schedule of the constitution be decided by the 3 judges bench of the Supreme court, and the cases are still pending.

Settlement Officer, in the cadre of District Revenue Officer, has been appointed at Udthagamandalam in order to perform the pending settlement work. The Settlement Officer (Gudalur Janmam Lands) conducted enquiries and has passed orders resuming 42,752.62 acres of Gudalur Janmam Lands during the year 2007-2008. To conduct Survey and Settlement work in respect of the above Gudalur Janmam Lands, the Government have sanctioned 25 new posts including One additional District Revenue Officer and two Tahsildars in G.O. (Ms.)No. 772, Rev. (S.S.I -1) Dept., Dt. 27.12.2007

Natham Settlement work has been taken up as per G.O. (Ms.) No. 1971 (Revenue Dept.,) dated 14.10.1988 throughout the state and the work has been completed in 188 Taluks so far. Natham settlement work in respect of Agastheeswaram, Thoivalai, Vilavangodu, Kalkulam Taluks of Kanyakumari District and Udthagamandalam, Coonur, Kothagiri, Guntha, Gudalur and Pandalur Taluks of the Nilgiris District is in progress. The Revenue follow - up work in respect of 67 Hill villages has been commenced as per G.O.(Ms) No. 113 Revenue Department, dt. 02.02.1995 and Government Letter No. 67864/S.S.II(1)/ 98 – 21

& 22, dt. 05.02.2004 and the work has been completed in 58 villages so far. The work is in progress in 9 villages.

The Government, in G.O. No. 1 (D) 103, Rev (S.S.II) Department dated 01.03.2007, have issued orders for the introduction of Revenue follow-up work in 6 Corporations (except in old Chennai city) and in all Municipalities. Accordingly, the Revenue follow-up work has been commenced initially in the following 10 Towns with effect from 01.07.2007:

1. Walajah (Vellore District), 2. Arni (Thiruvannamalai Dt.), 3. Panruti (Cuddalore Dt.), 4. Aranthangi (Pudukottai Dt.), 5. Thuraiyur (Trichy Dt.), 6. Periyakulam (Theni Dt.), 7. Palani (Dindigul Dt.), 8. Thoothukudi (Thoothukudi Dt.) 9. Bhavani (Erode Dt.), 10. Rasipuram (Namakkal Dt.)

The Survey of Wakf properties is also in progress.

## **CHAPTER - V**

### **LAND REFORMS**

The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1961 (Tamil Nadu Act 58/61) was enacted to achieve the objective of reducing the disparities in the ownership of agricultural lands, by fixing a ceiling on land. This objective is realised by taking over the surplus lands and distributing them amongst the landless poor.

The land ceiling for a family consisting of 5 members was initially fixed at 30 standard acres. 5 standard acres in addition was allowed for every additional member with an overall ceiling of 60 standard acres, besides 10 acres of Stridhana land for each female member. The ceiling on land and also certain exemptions provided for, in the original Act were rationalised over the years by bringing in certain changes in the Act.

The amended Act 17/70 reduced the ceiling for the family from 30 to 15 standard acres. The overall ceiling limit of 60 standard acres, as fixed under the Parent Act, 58/61 was also reduced to 40 standard acres through the Tamil Nadu Act No.20/72. This was further reduced to 30 standard acres through

the Tamil Nadu Act No. 39/72. The present position of ceiling area is as follows:

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Extent allowed</b>
1	For a family consisting of 5 members	15 standard acres
	i) Each additional Member	5 standard acres
	ii) Over all ceiling area	30 standard acres
2	Charitable trusts which were in existence as on 01.03.1972	5 standard acres
3	All trusts are prohibited from acquiring agricultural lands after 01.03.1972.	

Government of Tamil Nadu has assigned the surplus lands acquired under Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act 1961, as amended, to eligible landless persons as per the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Disposal of Surplus Land) Rules, 1965.

The details of lands declared surplus and assigned to the beneficiaries along with the details of lands locked in the Court cases, from the inception of Act, upto 31.03.2008, are shown below:-

**Statement showing the details of total extent of lands declared surplus, assigned and number of beneficiaries as on 31.03.2008**

Sl.No.	Category		Extent of Land in Acres	
1	Total Extent of land declared as surplus		2,08,207	
2	Land distributed	Landless Poor	1,89,719	1,99,904
		Public Purpose	10,185	
3	Number of beneficiaries		1,50,159	

**Statement showing the details of number of beneficiaries as on 31.03.2008**

Categories of persons benefited	Number of persons	Percentage	Extent assigned (In Acres)	Percentage
Scheduled Castes	66,333	44.18	71,192	37.53
Scheduled Tribes	236	0.16	320	0.17
Others	83,590	55.66	1,18,207	62.30
Total	1,50,159	100.00	1,89,719	100.00

**Statement showing the details of the balance extent to be assigned and also extent covered under court cases as on 31.03.2008**

<b><u>Sl. No</u></b>	<b>Category</b>	<b><u>Extent In Acres</u></b>
1.	Extent notified as surplus	2,08,207
2.	Land assigned to landless poor	1,89,719 (91% of 1 above)
3.	Extent allotted for public purposes under rule 13 of the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (DSL) Rules, 1965	10,185 (4.9% of 1 above)
4.	Balance	8,303 (4% of 1 above)
5.	Extent covered by stay granted by various courts (Supreme Court, High Court, Land Commissioner and Sub-Courts).	8,044 (3.9% of 1 above )
6.	Balance	259

An extent of 659 acres has been assigned to 600 persons from 01.04.2007 to 31.03.2008, which includes 229 Scheduled Caste beneficiaries, covering an extent of 193 acres.

**5.2. Tenancy Laws:**

**i) The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Protection Act, 1955 (Tamil Nadu Act 25/55)**

This Act has been enacted to protect the interests of the cultivating tenants from eviction from the lands, except for non-payment of lease rent or doing any act which is injurious to the land or crops thereon, failure to cultivate the land, using the land for any purpose other than agricultural or horticultural purpose or denial of the

title of the land owner to the land. In the case of adverse seasonal conditions such as drought, and natural calamity like floods, the cultivating tenants were given relief from time to time by postponing the collection of lease by Special enactments.

ii) **The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956 (Tamil Nadu Act 24/1956)**

This Act provides for the fixation of fair rent payable by the cultivating tenant to the landowners and Public trusts. At present, the fair rent is 25% of the normal gross produce. It may be either in cash or kind. The cultivating tenant bears the expenses of cultivation and the landowner pays the land revenue and other dues on lands.

iii) **The Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation and Administration of Agricultural Land) Act, 1961 (Tamil Nadu Act 57/61)**

Public Trusts are permitted under this Act to cultivate upto 20 standard acres under their personal cultivation and the remaining extent has to be let on lease.

iv) **The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers Fair Wages Act, 1969 (Tamil Nadu Act 19 of 69)**

Payment of fair wages was ensured under this Act to agricultural labourers of Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur Districts for various types of work in the agricultural sector ranging from Rs. 54/- to 100/- per day for men labourers for six hours of work and Rs. 45/- per day for women labourers for five hours of work.

v) **The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands (Record of Tenancy Rights) Act, 1969 (Tamil Nadu Act 10/1969)**

The rights of the cultivating tenants are protected under this Act by ensuring registration. The Taluk Tahsildar is the Record Officer for the purposes of this Act and he is assisted by the Advisory Committee consisting of non-officials. 2,59,575 persons have been registered as tenants under this Act as on 31.03.2008.

vi) **The Tamil Nadu Occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of Ownership) Act, 1971 (Tamilnadu Act 40/71) as amended**

This Act ensures that the agricultural Labourers, who are without a own house plot, get their homestead occupation assigned to them if they were occupying any Kudiyiruppu as on 19.06.1971. The Tamil Nadu Rural Artisans (Conferment of Ownership) Act, 1976 (Act 38/1976) extends such benefits to rural artisans also, who were not having their own plot and who were occupying the site as on 01.07.1975. The time limit was extended under both the Acts upto 01.04.1990 by Act 39/1990. The details of the total number of Kudiyirupputadars who were conferred ownership rights over Kudiyiruppu as on 31.03.2008 are given below:-

**Statement showing details of the total number of Kudiyirupputadars who were conferred ownership rights over**

## **Kudiyiruppu**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Act 40/71</b>	<b>Act 38/76</b>	<b>Act 39/90</b>	<b>Total</b>
Scheduled Caste	1,00,218 (54.9%)	62 (14%)	1,038 (59.72%)	1,01,318 (54.84%)
Scheduled Tribes	2,317 (1.27%)	17 (3.85%)	412 (23.7%)	2,746 (1.49%)
Others	80,022 (43.83%)	363 (82.15%)	288 (16.58%)	80,673 (43.67%)
Total	1,82,557 (100.00%)	442 (100.00%)	1,738 (100.00%)	1,84,737 (100.00%)

### **5.3. CONSTITUTION OF LAND TRIBUNALS:**

Separate Land Tribunals, presided over by District Revenue Officers, were established in the year 1980 to ensure speedy disposal of the Land Reforms cases pending with the Subordinate Courts. The post of District Revenue Officer was disbanded with effect from 14.08.2007 and the delegation of powers of the Land Tribunal to the Commissioner of Land Reforms is under consideration of the Government.

### **5.4. REVENUE COURTS**

Six Revenue Courts are now functioning in the State at Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli and Madurai respectively under the control of Special Deputy Collectors. The Special Deputy Collectors (Revenue Courts) are appellate authorities, who decide on appeals against the orders of the Tahsildars concerned in respect of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands (Records on

**I. PERIASAMY  
MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND  
HOUSING**