

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **SOCIAL DEFENCE**

**5.1** The Department of Social Defence is providing services for the development of children found in difficult circumstances and the girls and women who are in moral danger requiring care and rehabilitation. The Department is also providing institutional and non-institutional services for the rehabilitation of the children entering the institutions, besides involving the Non-Governmental Organisations in all the programmes to ensure protection of the rights of the children and their overall development.

The institutions under the Department provide care, training (educational and vocational) and rehabilitation to the children who are neglected and children in conflict with law coming under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and girls and women institutionalised under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The Department also provides after care services to the boys, girls and women discharged from the institutions.

The Government of India have reviewed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and enacted the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006.

The Government of India has also gazetted the Model Rules on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The State of Tamilnadu is fully committed to the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and Rules in letter and spirit. Reiterating this, following steps will be taken:

#### **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

The State would work towards a Child Protection Policy and take steps that re-iterate its commitment to the United Nations Child Rights Convention.

#### **POSITIVE MEASURES AND BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD**

Positive measures and best interest of the child shall be the main guiding principles, for enabling the child to reach to his or her full potential. Full mobilisation of all possible resources, governmental, non-governmental, volunteers, community & corporates would be attempted. Various schemes of different departments dealing with children, in sectors of health, education, livelihoods, creativity, leisure and play, would also be provided and extended to the children covered under the Juvenile Justice Act, with this department. Physical, emotional, intellectual, social and moral development of the child shall be ensured.

#### **CONVERGENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION**

The Department of Social Defence would work towards convergence of all its units for enabling better implementation of governmental services for children. All government orphanages

and Children's Homes run by Non-Governmental Organisations and the Childline would be linked to the Child Welfare Committees under the Juvenile Justice (Amendment) Act, 2006.

## **CHILD PROTECTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Creating awareness and involving civil society groups, corporates, NGOs in child protection and capacity building would be done leading to better implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act & improvements to the Juvenile Justice system, including strengthening and bringing in convergence in existing structures.

## **CHILDREN'S COMMITTEES**

Active participation of children through children's committees in all child care institutions would be brought in, leading to implementation of the principle of safety as well as building skills & confidence in the children to work & plan as a team for achieving goals.

### **5.2.1 JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARDS**

To deal with cases of children in conflict with law, eight Juvenile Justice Boards have been constituted at Chennai, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Salem, Cuddalore, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai and Coimbatore. The Boards consist of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class with two social workers (including one woman social worker) having powers conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Boards meet thrice a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the premises of the respective Observation Homes.

Refresher Training Course has been conducted for the members of the Juvenile Justice Board with support from UNICEF.

**A sum of Rs.15.36 lakhs has been allotted in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### **5.2.2 OBSERVATION HOMES**

Children in conflict with law are being admitted in the Observation Homes through Juvenile Justice Boards. There are six Government Observation Homes one each at Chennai, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Salem and Cuddalore and two Observation Homes run by NGOs at Madurai and Coimbatore.

Maintenance Grant of Rs.450/- per month per child with effect from August 2007 is provided to Observation Homes run by Non-Governmental Organisations, in addition to the full staff support cost of Rs.80,000/- p.m.

**A sum of Rs.134.51 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### 5.2.3 SPECIAL HOMES FOR BOYS & GIRLS

Children in conflict with law who have been found guilty and committed by the Juvenile Justice Boards under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act are sent to Special Homes for care, custody and rehabilitation till the end of the period ordered by the Juvenile Justice Boards.

There are two Government Special Homes, one at Chennai for girls and another at Vellore for Boys.

**A sum of Rs.24.09 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### 5.3.1 CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES

To deal with cases of children in need of care and protection eighteen Child Welfare Committees have been constituted in the following places:-

1. Chennai	7. Salem	13. Thanjavur
2. Chengalpattu	8. Coimbatore	14. Tiruchirappalli
3. Ranipet	9. Virudhunagar	15. Madurai
4. Cuddalore	10. Dindigul	16. Tirunelveli
5. Dharmapuri	11. Karaikudi	17. Nagapattinam
6. Erode	12. Thoothukudi	18. Thiruvallur

Each Child Welfare Committee consists of a non-official Chairman and 4 Members (including one woman member). These Child Welfare Committees are vested with the powers of Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate of First Class. These Committees meet thrice a week on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the premises of the notified homes. 18 Child Welfare Committees have been reconstituted with Chairman and Members vide G.O.Ms.No.124, Social Welfare & Nutritious Meal Programme Department, dated 29.06.2007.

Orientation Course has been conducted for the members of these Child Welfare Committees, with the support of UNICEF.

**A sum of Rs.17.28 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### 5.3.2 CHILDREN HOMES FOR BOYS & GIRLS

To provide care, training, education and vocational education to the children sent by Child Welfare Committees, 31 Children's Homes are functioning in the State.

(i)	Government Children Home for Boys & Girls	11
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	(Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tattaparai, Ranipet, Thanjavur, Mallipudur, Panchapalli, Erode, Villupuram and Karaikudi) & Girls-1 (Chennai)	
(ii)	Children Homes run by Non-Governmental Organisations (Chennai-99, Chennai-21, Chennai-113, Chennai-8, Chennai-93, Chennai-17, Chennai-107, Chennai-39, Chennai.10 (2 Institutions), Gandhigram, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Salem, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Virudhunagar, Mayiladuthurai, Dindigul and Thoothukudi.	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>

Children's Homes would cater exclusively to the needs of children who require care and protection as ordered by Child Welfare Committees.

Non-Governmental Organisations that are running and maintaining childcare institutions are given grant-in-aid of Rs.450/- per month per child towards their maintenance charges by the Government with effect from August 2007. The Children's Home under Bala Vihar, Chennai where mentally retarded children are kept are given grant-in-aid of Rs.450/- per month per child and Children's Home for differently abled children at Mayiladuthurai are given grant-in aid of Rs.600/- per month per child towards their maintenance charges by the Government.

**A sum of Rs.887.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### 5.3.3 AFTER CARE ORGANISATIONS

The After Care Organisations are functioning at the following 3 places to provide rehabilitation to the discharged children of Children Homes / Special Homes for Boys & Girls.

1.	Government After Care Organisation for Boys, Athur (Kancheepuram District)
2.	Government After Care Organisation for Boys, Madurai
3.	Government After Care Organisation for Women, Vellore

Job oriented vocational training are imparted to the children staying in the After Care Organisations. The children in need of care and protection after the discharge from Children Homes are admitted to After Care Organisations to continue their higher studies.

**A sum of Rs.69.58 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### 5.4 VIGILANCE / PROTECTIVE HOMES UNDER IMMORAL TRAFFIC (PREVENTION) ACT 1956

To provide care, treatment, training and rehabilitation to the women victims, Vigilance / Protective Homes were established under the provisions of Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

These institutions also admit girls who face threat of sexual exploitation and are in moral danger. The Commissioner of Social Defence can authorise the admission of such girls to these institutions on a voluntary basis. There are five Vigilance/Protective homes situated in the following places:-

- Chennai
- Madurai
- Tiruchirappalli
- Salem
- Coimbatore

### **5.5 RESCUE SHELTER**

These Shelters are intended for the detention of under trial women and girls who have been charged with offences under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. They are kept in the Shelters temporarily till their cases are disposed of by the courts. Six Rescue Shelters are functioning for women victims whose cases are under trials. These shelters are functioning along with the Vigilance / Protective Homes and one in After Care Organisation in Vellore.

### **5.6 UNMARRIED MOTHERS HOME**

Women and girls who are victims of sexual exploitation and become pregnant can be admitted in Government Vigilance Home and Stri Sadana, Chennai-4.

### **5.7 SHORT STAY HOME**

Two Short Stay Homes are run by the Non-Governmental Organisations in the following places for stranded girls:

1. Abhaya Nilayam, Chennai,
2. St. Francis Xavier Rescue Home at Adaikalapuram in Thoothukudi District.

Girls are permitted to stay for a period of 90 days and their stay can be extended for additional period of 45 days with the permission of Commissioner of Social Defence. The Government is sanctioning a maintenance grant of Rs.450/- per month per girl.

**A sum of Rs.200.44 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for Vigilance/ Protective Homes, Rescue Shelters, Unmarried Mothers Home and Short Stay Homes.**

### **5.8 JUVENILE GUIDANCE BUREAU**

To provide guidance and counselling to the children and parents / guardians in order to facilitate reform and rehabilitation of children in conflict with law Juvenile Guidance Bureau studies the psychological problems of the children of Observation / Children / Special Homes and

furnishes its reports to the respective competent authorities. Five Juvenile Guidance Bureaux, two at Chennai and one each at Madurai, Vellore and Coimbatore are functioning with the participation of Non-Governmental Organisations.

**A sum of Rs.6.78 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### **5.9 SCHOOL EDUCATION**

Education is imparted upto VIII standard in all the Government Children's / Special Homes. In the Government Children's Home for Boys at Chengalpattu and Government Special / Children's Home for Girls at Chennai, education is imparted upto X standard apart from providing computer training. Children continue to stay at the institutions, and go for their higher secondary classes in schools outside. 18 such children are presently staying in these Homes.

### **5.10 HIGHER EDUCATION**

The department also takes care of the higher education of these children by facilitating their admission in Medical, Engineering, Polytechnic, ITI Certificate courses. The details of children studying in various courses outside their respective Children / Special Homes are given below:

Medical Education Degree Course	1
Engineering Degree Course	1
I.T.I. Certificate Course	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

**A sum of Rs.15.00 lakhs has been sanctioned in Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for providing School Education and Higher Education to the children in Government Children Homes and Special Homes.**

### **5.11 VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

As part of the skill building and rehabilitation programmes of the Department, vocational training is imparted with the help of trained teachers. Some of the short-term vocational training courses being offered are:-

1. Tailoring
2. Automobile Mechanism
3. Screen Printing
4. Computer training.
5. Mat Weaving.

6. Band Music.
7. Book binding.

**A sum of Rs.28.85 lakhs has been sanctioned in Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

Incentive provided to children studying vocational trades:-

Skilled Children	Rs.70/- per month per child
Semi-Skilled Children	Rs.50/- per month per child

The incentive payment is saved and credited to the pocket money of the children every month. Pocket money of Rs.5/- is given to each child every month.

In the After Care Organisation for Boys at Athur, Kancheepuram District, training is imparted in job-oriented trades like Desk Top publishing (Computer), Automobile Mechanism and Electrician Training to the discharged children.

The children of After Care Organisation for Women at Vellore, are trained in Needle Work and Tailoring.

## **5.12 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES**

The Department of Social Defence is providing financial assistance to the children discharged from the institutions, as detailed below:-

1) Financial assistance not exceeding Rs.5,000/- (or) material assistance for a value of not exceeding Rs.10,000/- is sanctioned to the discharged children under Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of children) Act, 2000 for their rehabilitation.

So far 153 children have been benefitted under this scheme.

2) A Lump-sum grant is provided for the purchase of tools and equipment to the trained children in the following vocational trades when they go out of the Children/Special Homes so as to facilitate them to start trades on their own:-

<b>SI.No.</b>	<b>Vocational Sections</b>	<b>Lumpsum Grant per head Rs.</b>
1.	Carpentry	2,000
2.	Weaving	1,000
3.	Book-Binding	1,000
4.	Gardening and Agriculture	500
5.	Masonry	500
6.	Tailoring	2,500
7.	Embroidery	1,000

8.	Metal Work	1,000
9.	Mat-Weaving	1,000
10.	House Wiring Rewinding and Plumbing	1,000
11.	Electric arc Welding	1,000
12.	Two wheeler Servicing & repair	2,000

3) A Marriage grant of Rs.3,000/- is sanctioned to the girls. A sum of Rs.2,000/- is also paid towards marriage day expenses.

**A sum of Rs.0.15 lakhs has been sanctioned in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### **5.13 FAMILY SUPPORT SCHEME**

The scheme for family support is implemented with a view to encourage de-institutionalization of children who have come to Children Homes due to poor economic condition, to enable them to stay with their family. Financial support is extended to such children to continue their education. Children are identified by a Committee and placed back with their parents under the scheme. Financial assistance of Rs.200/- per month per child is provided to the family till their actual date of discharge. The scheme has been framed in such a way as to help children to study while with their family, instead of joining in Children Homes.

**A sum of Rs.1.50 lakhs has been sanctioned in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### **5.14 ERADICATION OF JUVENILE BEGGARY**

One Juvenile Guidance Bureau is run by an NGO, Indian Council for Child Welfare, Chennai with financial support from State Government in the form of grant-in-aid to prevent juvenile beggary by counselling the children / parents.

**A sum of Rs. 1.08 lakhs has been sanctioned in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### **5.15 SPECIAL CARE CENTRE**

To provide parental care to the destitute children in Children Homes, one Special Care Centre (girls) is functioning through a Non-Governmental Organisation at Chennai. Fifty girl children are benefitted under this scheme. Grant of Rs.200/- p.m. per child is given to them.

**A sum of Rs.1.95 lakhs has been sanctioned in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### 5.16 COMPREHENSIVE STREET CHILDREN PROGRAMME

Under the Comprehensive Street Children Programme, 50 children are admitted in each institution and such children are provided food, non-formal education and vocational training. These shelters provide a safe place to the street children. A maintenance grant of Rs.2,70,000/- per annum per shelter (i.e.Rs.450/- per child per month x 50 children x 12 months) is provided. At present, the Shelters are functioning at the following places:-

Chennai	8	Tirunelveli	1
Madurai	2	Salem	1

600 children are benefitted under this scheme.

**A sum of Rs.32.40 lakhs has been sanctioned in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### 5.17 CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

To ensure prevention of child abuse, Government has launched a project through Indian Council for Child Welfare, Chennai (Tamil Nadu). The project takes on record and enquires into the cases of child abuse and provides temporary care and protection to children. It also provides guidance and counselling services to the children and their family.

**A sum of Rs.0.36 lakhs has been sanctioned in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### 5.18 CHILDLINE

CHILDLINE, is a national 24-hour, free, emergency telephone helpline and outreach service for children in need of care and protection. The **CHILDLINE** number 1098 is a toll free number that is common in all the cities of India. Childline India Foundation (C.I.F) was founded in June 1996, which is the Nodal Agency for implementing CHILDLINE services in the cities / districts across India. CHILDLINE is currently operational in 73 cities which includes 10 cities in Tamil Nadu functioning at Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Salem, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Kancheepuram (Mahabalipuram) managed by the Non-Governmental Organisation with the financial support from the Government of India. The Commissioner of Social Defence is the Chairperson of Childline Advisory Board of Chennai,

Childline. **CHILDLINE** aims to reach out to the most marginalised children between the age group of 0-18 years, and provides interventions related to shelter, medical, repatriation, rescue, sponsorships and, emotional support and guidance.

### **5.19 INITIATIVES FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

Combating trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children is one of the prime concerns of the State Government. Towards this objective, the following initiatives have been taken:-

- A State Level Co-ordination Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government has been reconstituted on 01.08.2006.
- Similarly, District Level Advisory Committees under the Chairpersonship of District Collectors have been constituted.
- Village Level Watch-dog Committees under the Chairpersonship of Village Panchayat Presidents have also been constituted in 12,547 Panchayats to address the problems at village level. Tamil Nadu is the first State to have created this kind of a three tier structure to combat trafficking.
- A sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Minister for Social Welfare has been set up to act as a pro-active Supervisory Committee on matters relating to trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children. This committee will be a Supervisory Committee for District Level Advisory Committees and Village Level Watch Dog Committees etc.
- Capacity Building Sensitisation Programmes on Prevention of Trafficking and Combating Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children to different stake holders was conducted in every district in the State at a total cost of Rs.1.00 Lakh enabling them to campaign against trafficking, initiate preventive strategies and in case of exploitation, facilitate the rehabilitation of victims.
- Orientation programme on Child Rights, Juvenile Justice and Prevention of Trafficking for 7500 Village Level Watch Dog Committee Chairperson and Members with the assistance of UNDP, was conducted.
- A Booklet on 'Child Protection and Prevention of Trafficking of Women' under UNICEF assistance for use of the stakeholders, was released.
- A booklet on the 'Suggested Roles and Responsibilities' of the Chairperson and Members of the Village Level Watch Dog Committee, has been released.
- In each district three NGOs have been nominated to give information about the incidence of trafficking in their districts to the District Advisory Committee and the Nodal Officer for prevention.
- In each district 3 to 5 counsellors have been nominated for family counseling of victims of trafficking.

#### **Rehabilitation assistance for the rescued victims of Immoral Trafficking**

Victims of immoral trafficking are provided training in vocational trades, to equip the women in skills required for alternative employment. The women and girls discharged from the Vigilance / Protective Homes are provided with financial assistance under self-employment scheme from the Tamil Nadu Social Defence Welfare Fund for Women and Children. A sum of Rs.5,000/- is provided to each discharged woman / girl to start trades on their own such as petty shops, tailoring shops and to rear cattle or goats.

#### **Non-Governmental Organisation's Participation.**

For effective implementation of the rehabilitation measures and the rehabilitation scheme in particular the department will encourage the active participation of NGOs and other collateral agencies. Joint ventures with Non-Governmental Organisations to co-manage and run Vigilance Home/Protective Home for rehabilitation of the victim women according to the needs of victims would be taken up. Training, Counseling, Guidance, Health care, restoration and re-integration of women with their families in society and placement assistance would also be done by Non-Governmental Organisations for the victim women.

#### **5.20 WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEFENCE**

The Department of Social Defence has its own Website designed with the help of National Informatics Centre.

The address of the Website is

**[www.tn.nic.in/socialdefence](http://www.tn.nic.in/socialdefence)**

#### **DETAILED LIST OF NEW SCHEMES FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009**

##### **SOCIAL DEFENCE**

**(Rs. in lakhs)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1.	State Level Annual Sports Meet & Cultural Events among the Children of the institutions functioning under the Department of Social Defence	5.00
2.	Moderanisation of Kitchens in Government Children Homes at Chengalpattu, Ranipet, Mallipudur and Panchappalli	15.46
3.	Training for New Recruits - Sensitisation and other Training Programmes for Staff	5.00
4.	Providing Spices once in a week in addition to the existing dietary items to the children of Government Observation Homes, Children Homes, Special Homes, After care Organisations and Vigilance & Protective Homes.	3.98
5.	Modernisation of Vocational Trades in	14.00

	Government Observation Homes, Government Special Home, Vellore, Government Children Homes, Special Home and Government After Care Home, Athur	
6.	Improvements to Homes for making them Child Friendly.	43.38
7.	Improvements to Reception Unit, Government Children Home, Royapuram, Chennai.	37.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>124.32</b>