

## CHAPTER 2

### WOMEN AND CHILD WELFARE

**2.1** The Government of Tamil Nadu stands first in implementing various welfare programmes for the overall development of women and children. The Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme is implementing a variety of schemes granting financial assistance to children and women in difficult circumstances to pursue education, marriage/ re-marriage etc. In its endeavour to provide a healthy and protective environment to girl children and women, the Government has formulated many policies towards reducing gender discrimination and improving the status of the adolescent girls and is implementing them effectively. Under the Nutritious Meal Programme nutritious Mid Day Meal is given to the school going students with the aim of ensuring a balanced development of health of the students and their education.

#### WOMEN WELFARE SCHEMES

##### **2.2 MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEMES**

The Department implements five types of Marriage Assistance Schemes to alleviate the problems of poor parents / guardians who are unable to get their girl children married.

Large number of girls and their parents are benefitted under these schemes.

##### **2.2.1 MOOVALUR RAMAMIRTHAM AMMAIYAR NINAIVU MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

Having the basic aim of promoting the educational status of women Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyaar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme was launched on 3-6-1989 to help the poor parents financially in getting their daughters, who have studied upto 8<sup>th</sup> Std and above and attained the age of 18 years old, married with an assistance of Rs.5000/-. Subsequently the educational qualification for getting this assistance has been raised to 10<sup>th</sup> Standard and also the financial assistance to Rs.10,000/-. This scheme was discontinued with effect from 1.4.2002 and has been revived with effect from 3.6.2006, raising the financial assistance from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.15,000/- per beneficiary. The assistance under this scheme has been increased to Rs.20,000/- from the financial year 2008-2009.

**For the year 2008-2009, a sum of Rs.130 Crores has been allocated in the Budget Estimate to benefit 65,000 poor families.**

##### **2.2.2 DR. DHARMAMBAL AMMAIYAR NINAIVU POOR WIDOW REMARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

This scheme encourages the social reformation of remarriage of poor widows who have lost their husband at the young age by providing financial assistance of Rs.15,000/- in the name

of Dr. Dharmambal Ammaiyar. The financial assistance is provided only to widows with minimum age of 20 years. There is no income ceiling for availing benefit under this scheme.

**A sum of Rs. 25.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 to benefit 166 persons.**

### **2.2.3 ANNAI THERESA NINAIVU MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR ORPHAN GIRLS**

A sum of Rs.15,000/- per beneficiary is given in the name of Annai Theresa for the marriage of orphan girls who have lost their parents where the annual income of the guardians or the orphan girls do not exceed Rs.12,000/-. The girls should be above 18 years of age and not above 30 years of age.

**An amount of Rs.41.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 to benefit 273 orphan girls.**

### **2.2.4 E.V.R. MANIAMMAIYAR NINAIVU MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR DAUGHTERS OF POOR WIDOWS**

The widows below poverty line are suffering a lot without enough financial support in getting their daughters married. To alleviate the suffering of these widows, an assistance of Rs.15,000/- is sanctioned for the marriage of daughters of poor widows, in the name of EVR Maniammaiyar. Under this scheme, the daughters of poor widows in the age group of 18 to 30 years and whose annual income is Rs.12,000/- are provided financial assistance for their marriage.

**A sum of Rs. 230 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate to benefit 1533 widow's daughters for the year 2008-09.**

### **2.2.5 ANJUGAM AMMAIYAR NINAIVU INTER-CASTE MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

This scheme encourages inter-caste marriages thus abolishing discrimination along caste lines and also eliminates the dowry harassments by providing cash assistance to the newly married couples if anyone of the spouse belongs to SC or ST Community and the other one belongs to a different Community or one spouse belongs to BC/ MBC Community and the other belongs to the Forward Community. There is no income limit for availing assistance under this scheme. A sum of Rs.20,000/- (Rs.10,000/- in the form of DD / Cheque for marriage expenses and Rs.10,000/- in the form of National Savings Certificate) is provided if one spouse is from SC / ST and the other belongs to a different community. A sum of Rs.15,000/- (Rs.5,000/- for marriage expenses in the form of DD/Cheque and Rs.10,000/- in the form of National Savings Certificate)

is provided to those newly married couple where a forward community person weds a BC/MBC person.

**A sum of Rs.400 Lakhs has been provided for the benefit of 2075 couples in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### **2.3 SATHIYAVANIMUTHU AMMAIYAR NINAIVU FREE SUPPLY OF SEWING MACHINES SCHEME**

Under this scheme, sewing machines are supplied at free of cost to widows, deserted wives, destitute women and physically handicapped men and women below poverty line with a noble view to increase their self employment potential and to help them to lead a decent life.

Under this scheme those who have been trained in tailoring and who have completed 20 years of age and are below 40 years are the beneficiaries.

**A sum of Rs.132 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate under this scheme for the year 2008-2009.**

### **2.4 SERVICE HOMES**

In the Rural areas of Tamil Nadu many girls discontinue their school studies and get married and some of them are deserted from their families due to family problems, some even lose their husbands due to various reasons. Some do not get married due to poor circumstances. To provide education and employment opportunities to such women, and to improve their economic conditions, the Department of Social Welfare runs 8 Service Homes, one each at Tambaram, Cuddalore, Salem, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Sivaganga, Nagapattinam and Madurai. These Service Homes provide accommodation, food, education (upto Higher Secondary School) and vocational training to the inmates at free of cost. Besides, the women inmates are allowed to keep their children with them and educational facilities are also provided to these children.

Secondary Grade Teachers Training course was restarted in Tambaram Service Home during 2007-08. Forty Ex-inmates of Service Homes and Government orphanages are benefitted through this Teachers Training Course.

**A sum of Rs. 377.48 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 for this scheme.**

### **2.5 SERVICE HOMES FOR WOMEN RUN BY NGOS**

The aim of the scheme is to rehabilitate socially and economically weaker women by educating them through condensed course and training them in tailoring. Food, accommodation, education and vocational courses are provided as assistance under this scheme. The women who

are socially destitute, deserted wives, widows and orphans are eligible to benefit under this scheme.

The following Voluntary Organisations are getting grant from State Government for running these Service Homes:-

Kasthuriba Sevashramam, Gandhigram, Dindigul	Imparting education from 6 <sup>th</sup> Standard to 10 <sup>th</sup> Standard
Shree Seva Mandhir, Saligramam, Chennai	Secretarial Course
Saranalayam, Coimbatore	Tailoring Course

**A sum of Rs. 17.78 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008 - 2009 for this scheme.**

### **2.6.1 WORKING WOMEN'S HOSTEL**

The Working Women, particularly from the middle and lower middle classes, are facing many problems to find suitable accommodation at the fees affordable to them. To cater to their requirements, Government is running eight Working Women's Hostels – two in Chennai and one each in Cuddalore, Madurai, Pudukottai, Tuticorin, Trichy and Hosur (Krishnagiri). A monthly income ceiling of Rs.10,000/- is prescribed for admission in the working women's hostels. Monthly rent of Rs.200/- in Chennai and Rs.150/- in other places is collected from the inmates, while water, electricity charges and food charges are shared equally by the inmates. Salaries of the Superintendent, Junior Assistant, Cooks, Scavengers and other staff are met by the State Government.

A Transit Hostel is also functioning at the existing Working Women's Hostel functioning at Chennai.

**A sum of Rs. 81.24 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008 –2009.**

### **2.6.2 CONSTRUCTION OF WORKING WOMEN'S HOSTEL COMPLEX ON THE LAND BELONGING TO ARULMIGHU VADAPALANI ANDAVAR TEMPLE, CHENNAI**

Due to increase in number of Automobile and I.T. related companies in and around Chennai city, working women find it difficult to get convenient and safe accommodation. In order to fulfil the above needs the Government through Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Limited, Chennai has proposed to construct a Working Women's Hostel Complex at the project cost of Rs.13.13 crores (out of which Rs.5 crores will be met by Government of India and the remaining i.e., Rs.8.13 crores will be met by the State Government) on the land measuring

5.96 acres belonging to Arulmigu Vadapalani Aandavar Temple at Chennai, Saligramam, Gandhi Nagar. The Working Women's Hostel is proposed to be constructed in 5 Blocks accommodating 500 working women and 60 pre school children with facilities for Recreation Centre, Creche, Library, Computer Centre, Gymnastic Centre etc.,

Considering the immediate need for construction of Working Women's Hostel at Chennai, the Government have proposed to proceed with construction of at least one block with State fund in anticipation of Government of India's approval as this is one of the budget announcement 2007-2008. Accordingly the Government have initially sanctioned a sum of Rs.2.00 crores for construction of Working Women's Hostel at Saligramam, Chennai.

## **2.7 FREE SUPPLY OF TEXT BOOKS AND NOTE BOOKS TO THE CHILDREN OF POOR WIDOWS**

This scheme benefits school going children of poor widows with a family income below Rs.12,000/- per annum by providing free text books and note books at the following rates:-

<b>Class</b>	<b>Cost of text books &amp; note books per annum per child</b>
I Std. and II Std.	Rs. 50/-
III Std to V Std	Rs. 125/-
VI Std to VIII Std	Rs. 175/-
IX Std and X Std	Rs. 300/-
+1 and +2	Rs. 600/-

**A sum of Rs. 12.64 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009 to this scheme which benefits about 10,000 children.**

## **2.8 EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN**

- I. By involving Women in Co-operative movement, socio-economic empowerment of women is ensured.
- II. Through formation of Industrial Co-operative Societies exclusively for women, economic empowerment of women is achieved. There are 98 Industrial Co-operative Societies functioning under the control of the Director of Social Welfare and 25 Weaning Food Manufacturing Women Co-operative Societies functioning under the control of Director, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme. These Cooperative Societies provide gainful employment to the women below poverty line by engaging them in manufacture of products and rendering services required for implementing the schemes of the Social Welfare Department.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Type of Co-op Society</b>	<b>No. of Co-op. Societies</b>	<b>No. of Members</b>
1	Tailoring Indl. Co-op. Societies	80	40,922

2	Stationery Indl. Co-op. Societies	15	746
3	Other Societies	3	1,015
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>42,683</b>

40,922 Women members of the 80 Tailoring Industrial Co-operative Societies are engaged in stitching uniforms of Polyester and Cotton blend supplied to the children studying in Std I to VIII and benefited under Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme and the number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme are 63 lakhs students including children in Orphanages and Service Homes.

Stitching of uniforms for students studying in Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes and Minority Welfare Department controlled schools and Kallar reclamation schools upto 8<sup>th</sup> Std which were entrusted to private agencies from 2003-2004 is now entrusted to industrial Women Co-operative Societies to improve the income of the above sections.

Tailoring wages have been increased by about 25%, which are paid to the members of Tailoring Co-operative Societies.

15 Women Stationery Industrial Co-operative Societies are functioning under the control of Social Welfare Department. These Societies have a total membership of 746. These stationery co-operative societies are providing work to the women members by getting orders from the Government Departments, Government institutions, Government Organisations and other Co-operative Institutions.

Among the above training centres, 2 in Salem District and one each in Namakkal and Tiruvannamalai District totalling 4 tailoring centres are giving training exclusively to tribal women. 65 Tribal Women are trained in these centres every year.

## **CHILD WELFARE SCHEMES**

### **2.9 SATHYA AMMAIYAR NINAIVU GOVERNMENT ORPHANAGES**

Due to various reasons, now-a-days many children are denied proper food and education. They do not get right environment for an all round growth. With genuine interest in the welfare of the destitute and orphan children, the Government of Tamil Nadu runs 27 Orphanages throughout the State of Tamil Nadu to groom them into good citizens. Classes are being conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> standard in the Orphanage itself and the children from 6<sup>th</sup> standard are sent for higher education to nearby schools run by Government and Local Bodies. These orphanages provide food, shelter, clothing, education excursion and health care, free of cost to the inmates so that they are enabled to study like other children.

Following categories of children are admitted to the Government orphanages:

- Orphaned and abandoned children without parents / relatives.
- Children of single parent families where either of the parents has died.
- Children whose parents are unable to take care of them due to imprisonment for a long term.
- Children whose parents are unable to take care of them due to serious illness. A committee with the District Collector concerned as the Chairman and consisting of the representatives from the Education, Health and Social Welfare Departments along with the Social Workers has been formed by the Government to monitor and provide necessary guidance for better implementation of the scheme for the welfare of the inmates of Government Orphanages.

These Committees meet once in three months and monitor the progress of the inmates of the orphanages in education, health and admission of children.

**A sum of Rs. 827.15 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the orphanages for the year 2008-2009.**

## **2.10 NGOs' PARTNERSHIP FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN**

The objective of the scheme is to rehabilitate the destitute children to live as normal citizens. The destitute children in the age group of 5 to 18 years of single parent family or who do not have either parent are eligible for benefit under this scheme. Children of deserted wives / parents affected with prolonged illness / parents imprisoned for longer period are also eligible to benefit under the scheme. The income of the parent/guardian should not exceed Rs.12,000/- per annum.

In order to encourage voluntary organizations which maintain orphan children, the State Government is sanctioning grant-in-aid towards maintenance of the children from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1992. The State Government is giving Rs.225/- per child per month as grant-in-aid (out of the total required expenditure of Rs.281) representing 80% of recurring expenditure, towards food, contingencies etc., to Voluntary Organisations for the maintenance of children. The remaining 20% of the expenditure which is Rs.56/- per month per child is borne by the Voluntary Organisations by themselves.

Each unit consisting of 25 children should have a house mother / father and a helper, to look after the children.

**For 2008 – 2009, a sum of Rs. 320.23 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the benefit of 14,477 children.**

## **2.11 SIVAGAMI AMMAIYAR NINAIVU GIRL CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME**

The objective of this scheme is to prevent female infanticide, discourage preference for male child and to promote family planning. This scheme also ensures equal opportunity in education for girl children on par with male children.

Under this scheme, an amount of Rs.22,200/- is deposited in Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited by Government in the name of the girl child, if there is only one girl child in the family with no other child in the family and when either of the parents has undergone sterilization before the age of 35 years. A monthly payment of Rs.150/- is released to the child from the interest accrued from the deposit, from the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the deposit and upto 20<sup>th</sup> year of deposit to take care of the education of the girl child. On the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the deposit, the deposit amount with interest will be released to the girl to enable her to pursue higher education or to defray the marriage expenses.

In case of families with two girl children and no male child, an initial deposit of Rs.15,200/- is made with Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., for each of the girl children by the Government. A monthly payment of Rs.150/- is released to the children from the interest accrued from the deposit, from the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the deposit and upto 20<sup>th</sup> year of deposit to take care of the education of the girl children. Each girl child will be given the amount deposited with accrued interest on the 20<sup>th</sup> year of deposit. This will enable them to pursue their higher studies or to defray their marriage expenses.

**A sum of Rs.75.00 crores have been allotted in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009. About 49,300 girl children will be benefitted under this scheme.**

## **2.12 CRADLE BABY SCHEME**

The Cradle Baby Scheme was launched in Salem in the year 1992 with the aim of eradicating female infanticide. This Scheme was later extended during 2001 to Madurai, Theni, Dindigul and Dharmapuri, as these districts were also found to be prone to this evil practice. Reception centres were started in the above districts with sufficient staff and infrastructure facilities including telephone, life saving medicines, life saving medical equipments, refrigerator and incubator. Cradles are also placed in the District Social Welfare Offices, District Collectorates, Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centres / Sub Health Centres to receive the deserted / abandoned babies. These reception centres play an important role in receiving the deserted / abandoned babies and in protecting their lives. The children received in the Reception Centre are rehabilitated and handed over to licensed adoption agencies to enable the children to find a family and issueless parents to have a child.

Till 31.3.2008, this programme has saved the life of 3,044 children.

The District Social Welfare Officers are designated as the Coordinating Officers for this scheme.

**A sum of Rs.6.21 Lakhs is provided in the Budget Estimate for 2008-2009 for the 5 Reception Centres.**

## **2.13 ADOPTION**

Adoption undoubtedly offers an important avenue for the care and protection of orphaned, abandoned, destitute and neglected children in a family environment and provides an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, thus bringing their talent and capacity to the fore. Adoption also provides couples who are issueless, the opportunity, happiness and satisfaction of having a child solely belonging to them. It carries with it the emotional, physical and material security necessary for the proper development of a child and also serves as the most reliable means of preventing situations associated with child abuse, exploitation and social mal-adjustment of orphaned, abandoned, destitute and neglected children.

At present there are 22 licensed agencies doing in-country adoptions. These agencies are situated at Chennai, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri, Trichy, Tuticorin, Madurai, Salem, Dindigul, Nagapattinam, Tirunelveli, Thiruvallur, Vellore and Kancheepuram. Of these, 8 agencies are recognised to handle inter-country adoptions also. Steps are being taken to identify at least one adoption agency in each district of Tamil Nadu. All the Licensed agencies are authorised to handle legal adoptions. The CARA (Central Adoption Resource Agency) under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi issues license to inter-country adoption and Government of Tamil Nadu issues license for in-country adoption.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is encouraging adoption of deserted/abandoned children by creating awareness among public. The District Social Welfare Officers have been designated as coordinators for this programme.

A Hand Book containing the details pertaining to Adoption such as scheme Implementation, Guidelines for In/Inter-Country Adoption, Laws relating to Adoption, Eligible Children/Parents, Details of Licensed Agencies, Government Officials and Agencies to be approached for Adoption has been released on 3-5-2007 with a noble objective to encourage the Public to adopt children.

## **2.14 WELFARE OF THE AGED**

### **2.14.1 OLD AGE HOMES**

The objective of the scheme is to provide physical, social and psychological support to the aged, who are in the age group of 60 years and above. Food, shelter, medical facilities, care and protection are given to the older persons, under this scheme.

The destitute older persons who are aged 60 years and above, and below poverty line are eligible to benefit under this scheme.

Often Old persons hailing from poor families and old age persons who are destitute do suffer due to non-availability of proper food and shelter. In order to get rid of their problems, State Government is giving financial assistance to 16 Voluntary Organisations, two homes at Chennai and one each at 14 districts wherein 640 Old Age persons are provided with the above facilities. Up to 40 inmates can be accommodated in each Old Age Home. During the year 2007-2008, 15 new Old Age Homes have been started in the remaining 15 districts through Non-Governmental Organisations. A sum of Rs.30.00 lakhs has also been sanctioned as grant-in-aid at the rate of Rs.2.00 lakhs for each Home. 600 older persons are additionally benefitted under this scheme. A sum of Rs.2.00 lakhs per year per Old Age Home is given as grant by State Government and the remaining Rs.40,000/- per year is spent by the Institution as Institution's share. Officers of the Directorate of Social Welfare inspect the activities of the institutions frequently.

**For 2008-2009 a sum of Rs.60.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for this scheme.**

#### **2.14.2 OLD AGE DAY**

1<sup>ST</sup> October of every year is celebrated all over the world as International Day of Senior Citizens. During the year 2007-08, the State Government have celebrated International Day of Senior Citizens at the cost of Rs.5.50 lakhs.

**For the year 2008-2009, a sum of Rs.5.50 lakhs has been allocated in the Budget Estimate for this scheme.**

#### **2.15 TAMIL NADU SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD**

The Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board which was constituted in 1954 has been working for growth and development of people below poverty line through Voluntary Institutions in the State with the following objectives:-

1. To promote and setting up of Non-Governmental Social Welfare Organisations.
2. To render technical and financial assistance to the Voluntary Institutions for better quality and standard of services.
3. To assess the Programmes aided by Central Social Welfare Board and the Government.

The Central Social Welfare Board through Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board provides support to Voluntary Organisations under a variety of programmes in order to facilitate and strengthen their role in empowering women through education and training, through collective mobilization and awareness creation, through income generating facilities and provision of support services.

The pattern of assistance varies from 50 percent to 90 percent, the balance being borne by the Voluntary Organisations. Special schemes receive cent percent grants.

With the assistance of Rs.998.58 lakhs from the Central Government, 827 Voluntary Institutions consisting of 1,923 units were assisted during the period from April 2007 to March 2008. State Government assistance for Rs.14.80 lakhs has been provided for the assistance of 206 Voluntary Organisations. The total beneficiaries of women and children under all the schemes of Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board are 50,560.

The Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board is co-ordinating between the Non-Government Organisation and Government in eradicating alcoholism and usage of drugs etc. Special efforts are taken by the Board on effective protection of the rights of women through Law, AIDS awareness and maintaining Day care centres for children of sexual workers.

## **2.16 GRANTS PROVIDED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH TAMIL NADU SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD.**

The Government of Tamil Nadu provides Rs.10 lakhs every year to the State Board to help 200 registered Voluntary Organisations functioning in rural areas for the welfare of the people and having two years standing after its registration under the Societies Registration Act/ Trust Act, to develop infrastructure facilities for activities like crèche, balwadi, and recreational centre. An amount of Rs.5,000/- is being given as grant to the organization 50:50 matching basis.

**A sum of Rs.10.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for 2008-2009.**

## **2.17 FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRES**

The Government of Tamil Nadu is assisting 6 Family Counselling Centres in Tiruvarur, Erode, Villupuram, Namakkal, Vellore and Perambalur run by the N.G.O. through the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board. The main aim of this Family Counselling Centre is to provide counselling to preserve the basic social unit of a family. It helps women who approach the centre to redress their grievances relating to dowry harrasment, marital maladjustment, cases of alcoholism and counselling to AIDS victims by giving suitable and appropriate guidance.

**A sum of Rs.4.80 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for 2008-2009.**

## **2.18 FEMALE FOETICIDE SEMINAR**

As per the guidance of Central Social Welfare Board, the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board has conducted a seminar on Female Foeticide on 30.9.2007 in Chennai. In continuation of this seminar an awareness book 'Pen Karuvai Kappom' was also released on 14.11.2007 by the State Minister for Electricity during Children's day celebration.

## **2.19 TAMIL NADU STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women was first constituted in the year 1993 and it is reconstituted in January, 2007. Dr. K.M. Ramathal is the present Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women with the following Members:-

1.	Dr.(Tmt.) K.M.Ramathal	Chairperson
2.	Tmt.P.Kamalambal, M.L.A.	Member
3.	Dr.K.Kayathri Devi, M.L.A.	Member
4.	Tmt.Qudsia Gandhi, I.A.S.,	Member
5.	Tmt.V.Vanitha, Police Officer	Member
6.	Tmt.Equin Binto, Principal, Queen Mary's College, Chennai.	Member
7.	Tmt.C.Sangamithra, Advocate	Member
8.	Tmt. R.Alice Manohari, Social Worker	Member
9.	Secretary, SW & NMP Department	Ex-Officio Member
10.	The Director of Social Welfare	Member Secretary

The main objective of the Commission is to safeguard the welfare of women handling general issues relating to the status of women and to make recommendations to the Government for suitable action.

The activities of the Commission are as follows:-

1. Investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws.
2. Present to State Government annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of these safeguards and make in such reports recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for improving the conditions of women.
3. Review, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations.
4. Take up the cases of violation of provisions of the Constitution and of other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities.
5. Look into the complaints relating to:-
  - a) Deprivation of women's rights.
  - b) Non-implementation of law enacted to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality and development.
6. Call for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women and identify the constraints so as to recommend strategies for their removal.
7. Undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement.
8. Inspect, cause to be inspected, any jail, remand home, women institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoner or otherwise, and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action, if found necessary.
9. Any other matter which may be referred to it by the State Government

**A sum of Rs.9.43 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for 2008-2009.**

## **2.20 Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**

As contemplated in the Central Act and Rules framed thereunder, effective protection of the women who are victims of violence of all kinds occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith has been provided with the appointment of District Social Welfare Officers as

District Protection Officers as an interim measure. A Service Provider for each district (two for Chennai) totalling 31 have been appointed from the reputed NGOs. The Service Providers have been informed of the requirements they should possess namely food, shelter, medical facilities, counselling and legal assistance. The expenses on food and shelter for the victims are reimbursed by the State Government to the Service Providers. As per the guidelines issued by the Government of India, action is being taken to appoint a separate District Protection Officers (One each in every district and two in Chennai) for implementation of this Act.

## 2.21 Board for the Welfare of Transgender

The Government have proposed to constitute a Board for Transgender to rehabilitate and to achieve equality for them in the community and security in the society. This Board will look into the various problems, difficulties and inconveniences faced by them. The Government will formulate, execute various welfare schemes for the betterment of their lives.

The nomination of Members of the Board, the duties and responsibilities of the Board are under the active consideration of the Government.

**A sum of Rs.50.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009.**

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

#### Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Dept.(Secretariat)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Scheme	Amount
1.	Computerisation of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Secretariat	17.50
	Total	17.50

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

Sl. No.	Scheme	Amount
1.	Promotion of awareness in Adoption of Children	6.10
2.	Purchase of Computer and Laptop for Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women	1.25
3.	Infrastructure facilities to Tamil Nadu State Commissioner for Women	2.00
4.	Providing chairs to Conference	3.00

	Hall in the Directorate of Social Welfare	
5.	Provision of 10 Computers with accessories to Directorate of Social Welfare	4.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16.85</b>