

**COOPERATION, FOOD AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

MANUAL

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CHAPTER I**RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005****INTRODUCTION**

The Right to Information Bill, 2005 was passed by the Parliament and received the assent of the President of India on 15th June, 2005 and thus the Right to Information Act, 2005 (Central Act 22 of 21005) has come into force. The provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 4, sub section (1) and (2) of section 5, sections 2, 12, 13, 15, 16, 24, 27 and 28 of the Act came into force at once and the remaining provisions of Act came into force on the 12th October, 2005. The Right to Information Act, 2005 (Central Act 22 of 2005) has been enacted to provide for setting out a practical regime of the right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of Public authorities in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every Public Authority. The Act enables the citizens to have access to information they require and holds Government and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed, keeping in mind the preservation of confidentiality of sensitive information.

CHAPTER II

Procedure and fee structure for getting Information

G.O.Ms.No.989 Public (Estt I & Leg) Department, Dated 7.10.2005 gives the details of the procedure and fee structure for getting information from public authorities. Every application for obtaining information under Sub-Section (1) of section 6 of the Act shall be accompanied by an application fee of Rs,.10/- by way of cash or Demand Draft or Bankers Cheque payable in the Head of Account "0075.00 Miscellaneous General Services-800. Other receipts-BK Collection of fees under Tamil Nadu Right to Information (Fees) Rules 2005" (D. P. Code No: 0075 00 800 0006). The applicant may also remit the fee under the above head of account in the Treasury / Pay and Accounts Office / State Bank of India / Reserve Bank of India and produce the chalan to the Public Information Officer as an evidence for having remitted the fee.

In case the information is required under sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Act, a fee shall be charged by way of cash against proper receipt or by Demand Draft or Bankers Cheque payable in the above head of account, at the following rates:-

- i. Rupees two for each page (in A-4 or A-3 size paper) created or copied.
- ii. Actual charge or cost price of a copy in larger size paper
- iii. Actual cost or price for samples or models and
- iv. For inspection of records, no fee for the first hour, and a fee of rupees five for each fifteen minutes (or fraction thereof) thereafter.

For providing the information under sub-section (5) of section 7, the fee shall be charged by way of cash against proper receipt or by Demand Draft or Bankers Cheque payable in the above head of account, at the following rates.

- i) for information provided in diskette or floppy, rupees fifty per diskette or floppy; and
- ii) for information provided in printed form, at the price fixed for publication.

Persons below the poverty line are exempted from payment of fee mentioned in the above para for seeking information under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The list of persons below the poverty line as approved by the Gram Panchayat and local bodies will be the basis for claiming the concessions and certified extract of the list will be sufficient to avail this concession.

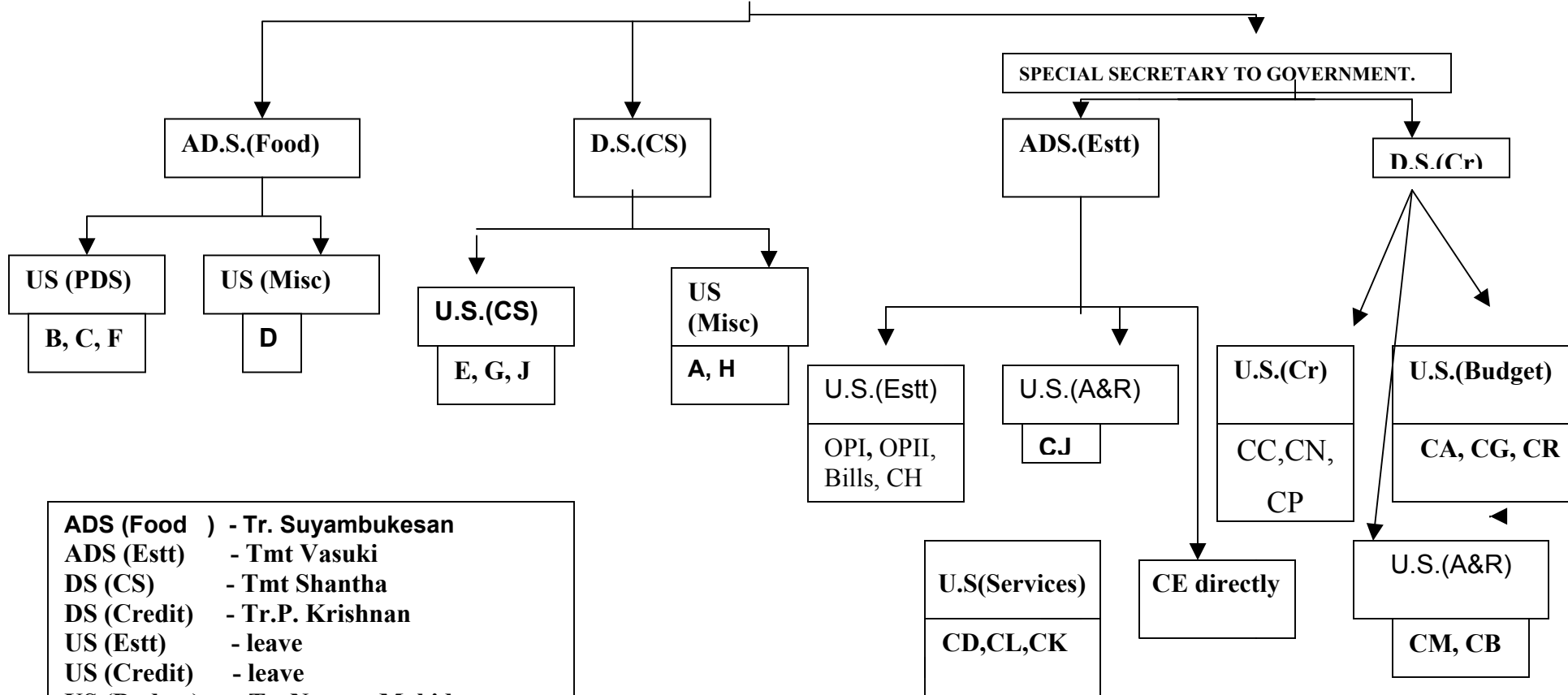
Chapter III
Departmental Organisation Chart

The Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department functions under the direct control of the Secretary to Government and deals with matters concerning co-operative credit, public distribution system and consumer protection. The functions of the Department relate to policy formulation and decision making in the following subjects :-

1. Co-operative Credit.
2. Co-operative Marketing, Processing and Storage.
3. Consumer co-operatives.
4. Co-operative Education, Research and Training.
5. Special Types of Co-operatives.
6. Integrated Co-operative Development Project.
7. Co-operative Election.
8. Public Distribution System.
9. Enforcement of control orders under the Essential
Commodities Act.
10. Consumer protection including price control
measures.

The Organizational chart of the department is given below:-

COOPERATION, FOOD AND CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT



- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ADS (Food) | - Tr. Suyambukesan |
| ADS (Estt) | - Tmt Vasuki |
| DS (CS) | - Tmt Shantha |
| DS (Credit) | - Tr.P. Krishnan |
| US (Estt) | - leave |
| US (Credit) | - leave |
| US (Budget) | - Tr. Nagoor Mohideen |
| US (A&R) | - Tr. Dharmaraj |
| US (PDS) | - Tr.Richard stevens |
| US (Misc) | - Tmt Swathithirunal |
| US (CS) | - vacant |

The Secretarial Department directs and controls the functioning of two Departments viz., Commissionerate of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, in charge of the regulation of the public distribution system and the enforcement of control orders and the department of Cooperation functioning under the Registrar of Co Operative Societies. The Civil Supplies Corporation which acts as the procurement agency and the wholesaler for the Public Distribution System and the Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation entrusted with the task of providing the storage infrastructure in the State also function under the control of the Department. The Registrar of Co Operative Societies is the head of the department of cooperation and deals with all matters relating to the cooperatives in his fold. The Commissioner of Civil supplies and Consumer Protection is in charge of matters relating to Public Distribution System and Consumer Protection. The Civil Supplies CID functions under and Additional Director General of Police for the enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act and the Control Orders issued thereunder.

List of Rules, Regulations, Instructions, Manuals and Records held by the Department.

1. Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies Act, 1983.
2. Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies Rules, 1988.
3. Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Act, 1976.
4. Special Rules for the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Service.
5. Tamil Nadu Special Rules for Tamil Nadu Cooperative Subordinate Service.
6. The Tamil Nadu Kerosene (Regulation of Trade) Order, 1973

7. The Tamil Nadu Essential Commodities (Display of stocks and prices and Maintenance of Accounts) Order 1977.
8. The Tamil Nadu Scheduled Commodities (Regulation of sale and Distribution by Card system through licensing) Order, 2005.
9. Non-Pressure Stove (Quality Control) Order 1990.
10. Kerosene (Restriction on use and fixation of ceiling price) Order 1993.
11. The Edible Oil Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1988.
12. The Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and distribution and prevention of malpractices) Order, 1998.
13. The Petroleum Products (Maintenance of Production, Storage and Supply) Order 1999.
14. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of supply and Distribution) Order, 2000.
15. The Naptha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order, 2000.
16. The Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order, 2000.
17. The Tamil Nadu Consumer Protection Act
18. The Tamil Nadu Consumer Protection Rules

Copies of the Rules and Regulations, instructions and records can be obtained from the concerned information officer of the Department.

Official Documents

1. Policy Notes
2. Citizens' Charter
3. Budget documents relating to the department

Information on Boards, Councils

The Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department is assisted in its functions by the following Boards, Councils and Committees.

1. State Level Consumer Protection Council
2. Price Monitoring Committee

CHAPTER IV

List of Appellate Authorities Public Information Officers, and Assistant Public Information Officers in Cooperation, Food & Consumer Protection Department and in the offices under its control

(1) Secretariat - Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department,

(a) Appellate Authority-

Thiru S. Machendranathan, I.A.S.,
Secretary to Government,
Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9

(b) Public Information Officer-

i. Tmt. G. Santha, B.A.,

Deputy Secretary to Government
Cooperation, Food and Consumer
Protection Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9

(For Food and Consumer
Protection Wing.)

ii. Thiru P. Krishnan, M.A.,

Deputy Secretary to Government
(Credit) Cooperation, Food and
Consumer Protection Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9

(For Cooperation Wing.)

(c) Assistant Public Information Officer -

Tmt. G. Bhanumathi

Under Secretary to Government (OP)
Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Secretariat,
Chennai-9

2. O/o. the Commissioner of Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department, Chepauk, Chennai-5

(a) *Appellate Authority –*

Joint Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, Chepauk, Chennai-5

(b) *Public Information Officer –*

Deputy Commissioner-1

O/o. Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, Chepauk, Chennai-5

(c) *Assistant Public Information Officer –*

1. Assistant Commissioner-II

O/o. Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, Chepauk, Chennai-5

2. Assistant Commissioner (Inspection) O/o. Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department, Chepauk, Chennai-5

District level

(a) *Appellate Authority-*

District Revenue Officer (concerned district)

(b) *Public Information Officer-*

District Supply Officer (concerned district)

(c) *Assistant Public Information Officer-*

Personal Assistant to DSO (concerned district)

Taluk / zonal level

(a) *Appellate Authority-*

Revenue Divisional officer (in which the taluk lies)

(b) *Public Information officer-*

Taluk Supply Officer (concerned taluk)

(c) *Assistant Public Information Officer-*

Assistant / Special Revenue Inspector in Taluk Supply Office

4) **O/o. the Registrar of Cooperative Societies Kilpauk,
Chennai-10**

(a) *Appellate Authority-*

Additional Registrar (ICDP)

O/o. the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Kilpauk, Chennai-5

(b) *Public Information Officer-*

Joint Registrar (S&T)

O/o. the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Kilpauk, Chennai-5

(c) *Assistant Public Information Officer-*

Deputy Registrar / Personal Officer, O/o. the Registrar of
Cooperative Societies,
Kilpauk, Chennai-5

Regional Offices

(a) *Appellate Authority-*

Regional Joint Registrar / Joint Registrar (Public Distribution
System) I& II

(b) *Public Information Officer-*

Deputy Registrar / Personal Officer (or) Any circle Deputy
Registrar in the absence of Deputy Registrar / Personal officer

(c) *Assistant Public Information Officer-*

Cooperative Sub Registrar / Office Superintendent

Circle Level

(a) *Appellate Authority-*

Regional Joint Registrar / Joint Registrar (Public Distribution System) I& II

(b) *Public Information Officer-*

Deputy Registrar / Deputy Registrar (PDS)

(c) *Assistant Public Information Officer-*

Cooperative Sub Registrar

Apex Institutions

1) *Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank*

Head Office

Branch /Regional Office

a) Appellate Authority –

Special Officer

Special Officer

b) Public Information Officer –

Asst.Gen.Manager (Legal)

Regional General Manager

C) Assistant Public Information Officer

Chief Manager

Branch Manager

-

2) *Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank*

Head Office

Branch / Regional Office

a) *Appellate Authority –*

Special Officer

b) *Public Information Officer –*

General Manager

Regional Manager

C) *Assistant Public Information Officer -*

Dy.General Manager

3) Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation

Head Office

Branch Regional Office

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a) Appellate Authority
– | Special Officer | Special Officer |
| b) Public Information
Officer – | Secretary | Regional General
Manager |
| c) Assistant Public
Information Officer - | Assistant Manager
(Advance) | Branch Manager |

4) Tamil Nadu Consumer Cooperative Federation

Head Office

Branch Regional Office

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| a) Appellate Authority
– | Special Officer | Special Officer |
| b) Public Information
Officer – | Secretary | Regional General
Manager |
| c) Assistant Public
Information Officer
– | Office Manager | Branch Manager |

Tamil Nadu Cooperative Union

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a) Appellate Authority | Special Officer |
| b) Public Information
Officer – | Director (General Administration) |
| c) Assistant Public
Information Officer - | Superintendent |

(6) Central Societies

District Central Cooperative Bank, Cooperative press,

District consumer cooperative wholesale stores, District

Cooperative union etc.,

(a) Appellate Authority-

Special Officer of concerned central society

(b) Public Information Officer-

Secretary / Manager / Development Officer

(c) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Officer in charge of Head Office

(7) Branches of Central Societies

(a) Appellate Authority-

Special officer of concerned central society

(b) Public Information Officer-

Secretary / Manager

(c) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Branch Manager / Sales man

(8) Fair Price Shops

(a) Appellate authority-

Special Officer of concerned Central Society

(b) Public Informaion Officer-

Manager

(c) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Salesman

(9) Primary societies

(a) Appellate Authority-

Circle Deputy Registrar

(b) Public Information Officer-

Special Officer

(c) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Secretary

(10) Tamil Nadu Cooperative Urban Bank Federation

(a) Appellate Authority

Regional Joint Registrar cum Director

(b) Public Information Officer

Officer in charge

(c) Assistant Public Information Officer

**11) Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited,
Kilpauk, Chennai-10**

(a) Appellate Authority-

Chairman & Managing Director

O/o. Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Kilpauk,
Chennai-10

(b) Public Information Officer-

Company Secretary (Head office)

O/o. Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Kilpauk,
Chennai-10

(C) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Deputy Manager (Board) H.O

O/o. Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Kilpauk,
Chennai-10

At Regional Level:

(a) Appellate Authority-

Senior Regional Managers / Regional Managers of the respective
Regions

(b) Public Information Officer-

Manager (Admn.) A.Os

Deputy Regional manager in all Regions

TNCSC LTD shops / Kerosene bunks

(a) Appellate Authority-

Distribution officer/ Senior Regional Manager/ Regional Manager

(b) Public Information Officer-

Area Officer

(C) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Sales man / Bill Clerk

Taluk Zonal Level

(a) Appellate Authority-

Revenue Divisional Officer

**(b) Public Information Officer / Assistant Public Information-
Officer-**

Assistant / Special Revenue Inspector in TSO Taluk Supply Officer

**12) Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai-32**

(a) Appellate Authority-

Managing Director,

Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Anna Salai, Guindy,

Chennai-32

(b) Public Information Officer-

Manager Administration

(c) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Senior Regional Manager / Regional Manager

**13) The Registrar, State Consumer Disputes Redressal
Commission, 212, R.K. Mutt Road, Chennai -4
R.K. Mutt Road, Chennai-4**

(a) Appellate Authority-

Secretary to Government, Cooperation, Food and Consumer

Protection Department

(b) Public Information Officer-

The Registrar

State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

212, R.K. Mutt Road, Chennai-4

(C) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Appeal Examiner

O/o. State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

District Level

(a) Appellate Authority-

Registrar State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

(b) Public Information Officer-

President of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum

(C) Assistant Public Information Officer-

Head Clerk of the Forum.

CHAPTER V

COOPERATION

Co-operatives all over the world have become an effective and potential instrument of economic development. The co-operative movement in Tamil Nadu has witnessed over the decades, substantial growth in diverse areas of economy. There is not a single major sphere of economic activity which has not been touched by Cooperatives. Co-operatives are also envisaged as an instrument for implementing many important policies like agricultural credit, market intervention, price support for agricultural commodities, public distribution etc.

From a small beginning, the cooperative movement in Tamil Nadu has grown in strength over the years. Opening of a village cooperative credit society in Thirur in Tiruvallur District in 1904 marked the advent of the Cooperative movement in Tamil Nadu ushering in a new era of services for the people of the State, particularly the agriculturist families. From Agricultural Banks to Marketing Societies and Consumer Cooperative Stores, Cooperatives provide services to the people in various economic activities. Majority of the fair price shops under the Public Distribution System are run by the cooperatives which provides relief to each and every family in the State.

The Cooperative sector in Tamil Nadu can be broadly classified into the following five categories.

- I. Cooperative Credit Structure
- II. Consumer Activities
- III. Cooperatives for Distribution of Agricultural Inputs.
- IV. Cooperative Education Training and Research
- V. Special Cooperatives.

I. Cooperative Credit Structure

The cooperative credit in Tamil Nadu is of three tier system namely,

- A. *Short term and medium term credit structure*
- B. *Long term credit structure and*
- C. *Urban cooperative Banks.*

(A) Short Term and Medium Term Credit Structure:

The short term and medium credit structure operates in three tiers viz.,

- i. *Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank (at the state level)*
- ii. *Central Cooperative Banks (at the district level) and*
- iii. *Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks (at the village level)*

i) Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, Chennai

The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, which is the Federation of the Central Co-operative Banks, has been disbursing credit through its affiliates for both agricultural and non-agricultural purposes since 1905. It channelises the funds provided by NABARD towards short term loans, medium term loans etc. for agricultural purposes besides financing from its own resources the District Central Cooperative Banks to enable them to finance their affiliates.

The Bank provides term finance to spinning mills/sugar mills and direct financial assistance to other Apex Co-operative Institutions in the State. The Bank does its retail business through its 45 branches in and around Chennai which provide loan facility to the people of Greater Chennai.

As on 31.03.2006, the Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank has a share capital of Rs.53.48 crores, including the Government's

share of Rs.0.26 crores, reserves of Rs.510.50 crores and public deposits of Rs.3126.00 crores. The Bank earned a net profit of Rs.28.01 Crores during 2005-2006.

A Fund called, "The Primary Co-operative Development Fund", is maintained by the Apex Bank to strengthen the infrastructural facilities of the primaries in the State. The total assistance provided to the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies so far amounts to Rs.21.81 Crores for various purposes.

ii) District Central Co-operative Banks

There are 23 District Central Co-operative Banks functioning in the State, with branches mostly in rural areas to serve the affiliates and the rural public. The District Central Co-operative Banks are financing the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks from their own resources and also by availing credit from NABARD through the State Apex Cooperative Bank for agricultural purposes. They also provide funds to Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies by availing credit from NABARD.

These banks also sanction loans for non-agricultural purposes like purchase of lorries and buses, bulldozers, earth movers, construction purpose, establishment of clinics / service centers by doctors/engineers, and education loans for pursuing profession courses etc.,

As on 31.03.2006, the District Central Co-operative Banks had a Share Capital of Rs.520.48 Crores, reserves of Rs.1404.71 Crores, deposit of Rs.6979.34 crores and the working capital of Rs.11922.15 crores.

iii) Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks

As on date, there are 4474 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks functioning in the State which provide short term loan to the

farmers towards cultivation purposes repayable within 15 months and medium term loans for undertaking subsidiary occupations such as dairying, sheep rearing, poultry farming etc repayable within 3 to 5 years. Crop loans are provided on personal surety basis as per the scales of finance upto 10 acres in respect of registered sugarcane growers for cultivation of sugarcane and upto Rs. 1,00,000 in respect of the crops. Crop loans over and above 10 acres in respect of registered sugarcane with reference to the scales of finance and crops loans above Rs. 1,00,000 in respect of other crops are issued on mortgage of property and / or pledge of jewels. These banks issue loans for other agricultural purposes like purchase of tractors, power tillers and other agricultural implements. These banks have also been permitted to utilize their deposit funds for issue of loans for purchase of consumer durables, two wheelers, tempos, trucks, tractors, power tillers, buses, cars, jeeps, construction and repair of houses and for starting service centers by Engineers and Doctors.

The Government has reduced the rate of interest on jewel loans from 9% to 7% per annum.

The Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks had mobilized public deposits to the tune of Rs.2418.84 crores as on 31.3.2006.

(B) Long Term Credit Structure:

The long term credit structure operates in two tiers viz.,

- i. *Tamil Nadu cooperative State Agriculture and Rural Development Bank. (at the state level).*
- ii. *Primary cooperative agriculture and rural development bank (at taluk / block level)*

These credit institutions provide loans to their members for development purposes like minor irrigation, Horticulture and Plantation crops, poultry keeping, dairying, sheep breeding, sericulture,

purchase of tyre carts, etc., on schematic basis. Besides, keeping in mind the welfare of the public, the Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks also provide long term credit under normal lending programme for purposes like repairs to wells, laying of pipelines, purchase of tractors, power tillers, construction of cattle sheds farm house etc. The period of repayment of such loans ranges from 5 to 15 years.

i) Tamil Nadu Co-op State Agriculture and Rural Development Bank

The Tamil Nadu Cooperative State Agriculture and Rural Development Bank raises the needed funds for its loaning operations through floatation of Ordinary and Special Development Debentures. The Ordinary debentures are subscribed by State and Central Governments and LIC of India, State Bank of India and its groups, commercial banks, Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank and other State Agriculture and Rural Development banks. The Special Development Debentures are subscribed by NABARD, the State and Central Governments.

Automatic refinance facility from NABARD is available for schemes which does not exceed Rs. 15.00 lakhs

The bank is maintaining a Debenture Redemption Fund for redeeming ordinary debentures on the maturity period of each series and the sum outstanding under this fund as on 31.3.2006 stood at Rs. 28.15 crores.

There is a monitoring and evaluation cell in the Tamil Nadu Cooperative State Agriculture and Rural Development Bank to study the problems in the implementation of various schemes and evaluate

the benefits that accrue to farmers, out of the schemes, 473 Monitoring and Evaluation studies have been conducted upto 31.3.2006

ii) Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks

There are 180 Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks at the taluk / block level. The funds needed for the long-term credit of Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks are being channelised by the apex institution, viz. The Tamil Nadu Cooperative State Agriculture and Rural Development bank.

In order to cope with the changing trend in providing credit by other financing agencies, the Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks have been permitted to undertake financing in non farm sector and loans to small road transport operators in rural areas.

(C) Urban Cooperative Banks

Urban Cooperative Banks are functioning as financial institutions for providing loans and credit facilities to the people living in urban and semi urban areas. At present there are 120 Urban Cooperative Banks functioning in the State. They mobilize deposit from the public and utilize the same for lending for specified purposes. Their lending operations include provision of credit facilities to small traders, artisans and persons belonging to middle income group for purposes such as extension / repair of houses, establishment of small cottage industries etc. They have issued short term and term loans to the extent of Rs.1872.41 crores during the period from 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006 to the urban and semi urban population. The deposits of

Urban Cooperative Banks as on 31.3.2006 stood at Rs.2391.26 crores. As per the guidelines issued by the RBI, the Urban Cooperative Banks are required to issue not less than 60% of their total lending to the priority sector and at least 25% of the priority sector advances should be issued to the benefit of the weaker sections of the community.

There are also 46 Urban Cooperative Credit Societies, functioning in the State which provide loan facility to their members in urban and semi urban area.

Schemes implemented by the Cooperative Credit Structures:

(i) Waiver Of Cooperative Loans Availed By Farmers

The Government, considering the inability of the farmers to repay their loans to the cooperatives due to successive crop loss on account of natural calamities, in G.O.Ms.No.70 Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department dated 13.5.2006 has waived all agricultural loans with interest outstanding as on 31.3.2006 with the Cooperative Societies. However, to ensure the continuous functioning of the cooperative societies in providing loans to the farmers, the Government has decided to reimburse the entire waived amount to the cooperatives in 5 annual instalments with interest at 8% per annum.

The Government has also taken over the liabilities of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank and Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank to NABARD.

(iii) Jewel Loans:

The cooperative banks issue loan on pledging of jewels for both agriculture and non-agriculture purposes. The Cooperatives also provide jewel loans to meet the urgent needs of the weaker sections,

particularly in rural areas with a view to prevent them from falling into the hands of unscrupulous private money lenders. The jewel loan for agriculture purpose is issued at 7% interest and the other loans are issued at 12% per annum.

(iv) Kissan Credit Card Scheme:

Government accorded permission to implement the Kissan Credit Card Scheme formulated by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development through Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks. As on 31.03.2006 the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks have issued Kissan Credit Cards to 14,61,831 farmer members and the loan outstanding against these cards was Rs.1607.64 crores.

(v) Credit Supply to Weaker Sections

The Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks are paying due attention to meet the credit needs of weaker sections in the State. As per the guidelines of NABARD, not less than 20% of short term lending by the Co-operative shall go to the small farmers, i.e. those owning or cultivating 5 acres or less of wet or dry lands.

It is programmed to issue loans to the extent of 14% in respect of short term loans and 30% in respect of medium term loans to the members belonging to the Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe.

(vi) Revamped Micro Credit to Women for Small Business.

The scheme of Savings Linked Micro Credit to women doing small business has been revamped to enable the women doing small business to get maximum benefit by reducing the interest rate from 15% to 12% and waiving the service charges under the Scheme. The District Central Cooperative Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks are implementing this scheme.

Under this scheme, women doing small business like selling flowers, vegetables fruits, running petty shops etc., can avail loan in

ranging from Rs. 100/-to a maximum of Rs.5,000/- according to their business requirements.

The beneficiaries under this scheme availing of loan facilities may stand surety for each other and take the responsibility to repay the loan. The beneficiaries, according to their convenience, may choose to repay the loan dues directly at the bank or make payments to the bank official in their business area.

(vii) Assistance to Self Help Groups.

The Micro Credit Scheme for self-help groups has been extended to rural areas in coordination with Tamil Nadu Corporation for Women Development by getting refinance from National Agricultural Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. Government have permitted to admit the Self Help Groups as members in the District Central Cooperative Banks, and Primary Agriculture Cooperative Banks. Upto 31.03.2006 these Banks issued loans to the extent of Rs.393.81 crores to 1,19,440 Self Help Group members.

(viii) Women Entrepreneur Loan Scheme :

Under the scheme, the District Central Cooperative Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks are providing loan upto Rs.10/- lakhs repayable in 60 monthly installments at 12% interest to women entrepreneurs to start small industries and service centers. This loan scheme has been implemented with effect from 19.10.2001. Upto 31.03.2006 a sum of Rs.28.39 crores has been disbursed to 12,429 women entrepreneurs under this scheme.

(ix) Working women loan scheme:

Under the scheme, the District Central Cooperative Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks are granting loans upto Rs.1,00,000/- to working women drawing monthly income. The borrower has to open a recurring deposit account for three years in the bank. The loan is

repayable in 36 monthly installments. The rate of interest charged on this loan is 12% per annum.

(x) Maternity loan scheme:

Under the scheme, the District Central Cooperative Banks, Urban Cooperative Banks and Primary Agriculture Cooperative Banks are issuing maternity loan to women up to Rs.2000/- at 11%. Upto 31.03.2006, a sum of Rs.4.60 Crores has been disbursed to 23,168 women beneficiaries under this scheme.

(xi) Coverage of SC/ST members:

Subsidy:

In order to encourage the people belonging to scheduled castes to enroll themselves as members of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Bank, a sum of Rs.200/- is provided as subsidy to them so that they may contribute this amount as their share capital.

Loan: A sum of Rs.250/- is provided as interest free share capital loan to each of the identified scheduled caste member of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Bank to increase their borrowing power. The loan is recoverable in five equal annual installments. Under this scheme 1,12,000 scheduled caste members were assisted to the extent of Rs.2.80 crores .

(xii) Financing in Non-Farm Sector

The Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks have also undertaken financing of rural artisans, handicraftsmen, small scale entrepreneurs etc., under Non Farm sector since 1990-91 onwards. Under such financing, the rural people are benefited to a great extent in augmenting their income through gainful employment. The NABARD provides 100% refinance under this scheme without reference to the lending eligibility criteria of the Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks. The

maximum individual credit limit under the scheme is fixed at Rs.2.00 lakhs under composite loan and Rs.15.00 lakhs under integrated loan.

(xiii) Non Farm Sector Loans by Urban Cooperative Banks:

The Urban Cooperative Banks are issuing non farm sector loans to the Tiny, Cottage and small scale industries. During the year 2005-06 a sum of Rs.128.65 crores has been disbursed under the scheme. The number of beneficiaries is 44504.

(xiv) Issue of loans to small road transport operators in rural areas

The Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks are permitted to provide loans to individuals and group of individuals including Cooperative enterprises in rural areas for purchase of both goods carriers and passenger vehicles including auto rickshaws whose gross vehicle weight does not exceed 16.2 tonnes. As such, financing for mini lorries, pick up vans, passenger vans, cars and auto - rickshaws registered as public goods / passenger carriers with the Regional Transport authorities can be done under Non Farm Sector schemes of "Small Road Transport Operators" for transport of farm/industrial produce and passengers. The loan under the above scheme is fixed at 85% of the unit cost, which includes the cost of chassis, cost of body building, taxes etc.

Special Schemes Implemented with Government Assistance:

The borrowings of the members of Urban Coop. Bank is linked with share capital invested by them as in the case of other types of credit institutions. In order to assist the scheduled caste members of Urban Coop. Banks a sum of Rs.500/- is provided as interest free share capital to each of the identified share capital members of Urban Coop, Bank so as to increase his/her borrowing power. The loan

amount is recoverable in five annual equal instalments. Under this scheme 19017 Scheduled Caste members have been given assistance to the extent of Rs.95/- lakhs through Urban Coop. Banks during the period from 1992-93 to 2005-2006.

Similarly, Govt. have extended interest free share capital loans to women members of Urban Cooperative Banks for taking additional shares to enhance their borrowing power. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.500/- is provided as interest free share capital loans recoverable in 5 years. So far, under this scheme 5000 women members of Urban Cooperative Banks have been benefitted to the tune of Rs.25/- lakhs.

II. Consumer Cooperatives

The Sale of quality Consumer goods to the public at reasonable rates forms one of the major objectives of the Consumer Cooperatives.

The consumer cooperatives in Tamil Nadu operates in three tier viz.,

- i. Tamil Nadu consumer cooperative federation (at apex level)*
- ii. Cooperative wholesale stores (at the district level) and*
- iii. Primary cooperative wholesale store.(at the base level)*

(i) Tamil Nadu Consumer Cooperative Federation Limited

The Tamil Nadu Consumer Cooperative Federation as an economic organisation has become financially weak and the Government is examining a proposal to merge it with TANFED.

(ii) Cooperative Wholesale Stores

There are 34 Cooperative Wholesale Stores at the district level in Tamil Nadu. The Cooperative Wholesale Stores are engaged in the distribution and sale of essential commodities under Public Distribution

System through the fair price shops and purchase and sale of non-controlled commodities.

The Cooperative Wholesale stores are facing financial constraints because of stiff competition from the private super markets, high overheads, lack of managerial and entrepreneurial skills etc. Steps are being taken to rehabilitate the Weak Cooperative Whole Sale Stores, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) also forms part of rehabilitation package.

(iii) Primary Cooperative Stores

There are 3550 primary cooperative stores including students' cooperative stores at base level. The value of retail sales of consumer goods effected by the Consumer Cooperatives during the year 2005-06 amounts to Rs.2682.72 crores.

Role of Cooperatives in Public Distribution System

The cooperatives play a prominent role in the distribution of essential commodities of mass consumption like Rice, Sugar, Wheat, Kerosene to 1.89 crore card holders through an extensive net work of 4912 Urban Fair Price Shops and 16723 Rural Fair Price Shops totaling to 21635 shops run by 5060 Cooperative Societies comprising of 86 lead societies, 4540 link societies and 434 self lifting societies. The Cooperatives are also running 5022 Part Time Fair Price Shops 612 women Sub Retail outlets, 36 mobile Fair Price Shops and 266 Kerosene bunks, as on 31.3.2006. The unique feature of the public distribution system in Tamil Nadu is that no private trader is given license to run fair price shops.

(i) Women Fair Price Shops

There can be real empowerment of women only when their status improves both socially and economically. One step towards this

is the Government decision for handing over of certain fair price shops, to women Self Help Groups under the control of Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation. As on 31.3.2006, 612 women fair price shops are functioning in the State.

(ii) Scheme on Distribution of Ration Rice at the rate of Rs.2/- per kg.

Till 2.6.2006, Rice was distributed through the fair price shops to the Cardholders at the rate of Rs.3.50 Per Kg. From 3.6.2006 rice is sold to the card holders at Rs.2/- per Kg.

(iii) Staggering in Distribution System of Kerosene

To avoid jostling and complaints regarding distribution of kerosene, staggering system is being followed in distribution of kerosene w.e.f. 1.2.2006 . This system is being implemented in all Kerosene bunks and fair price shops having family card strength of 2000 and above. The schedule of card wise staggering is drawn up in such a way that only 500-600 cardholders draw kerosene in a day from a kerosene bunk and only 100-200 cardholders draw kerosene in a day from a fair price shop either in the forenoon or afternoon.

The system of staggered supply is spread from Monday to Saturday (except Friday) on all weeks of each month except designated 'common days'. Every Sunday is the common day on which any cardholder who had not drawn his entitlement during the prescribed day in that week can draw his entitlement. Likewise the last two working days of each month are also 'common days' on which any cardholders who did not draw their entitlement during the month can claim kerosene.

(iv) Sale of Ooty Tea through Cooperative Fair Price Shops :

In order to alleviate the sufferings of the small tea growers in the Nilgiris District, the Government have introduced a scheme. Under

which, the tea processed by INDCOSERVE is sold under Public Distribution System through fair price shops. The Government have fixed a target of 250 M.Ts per month for Cooperatives.

(v) Sale of Iodised Arasu Salt through Cooperative Fair Price Shops:-

In order to prevent the incidence of goitre due to Iodine deficiency, the Government has promoted the sale of iodised salt through the fair price shops.

Iodised salt is being sold at Rs.2.50 Per Kg. On an average, 1869 Mts of salt per month is distributed through Fair Price shops.

(vi) Sale of Khadi Products through Fair Price Shops

In order to encourage rural industries the Government have announced that the products of Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Industries Board will be sold through Fair Price shops run by Cooperative Societies. The Scheme is now implemented in all districts in the state with a view to sell 10 varieties of Khadi products through Fair Price shops .

III. Cooperatives for Marketing, Processing and Storage of Agricultural Produce

The Cooperatives for the distribution of agricultural inputs, Marketing, Processing and Storage of agricultural produce consist of two tier namely,

1. At apex level -
 - (a) Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation
 - (b) Thanjavur Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd.
 - (c) Nilgiris Cooperative Marketing Society
2. Primary Marketing Societies

(a) Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation

The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation (TANFED) was started in 1959 as an apex institution, serving the Primary Cooperative Marketing Societies in all the districts in the State except the districts of Nilgiris, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam. The TANFED, as the wholesaler distributes chemical fertilisers and also pesticides, through Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks and Cooperative Marketing Societies. In the year 1970, TANFED established a fertilizer plant at Pamini near Mannargudi in Thiruvarur district. Further it is operating 39 owned godowns with a total capacity of 28140 M.Ts. and 9 hired godowns with a capacity of 3450 M.Ts. and two cold storage godowns, one at Basin Bridge, Chennai with 1350 M.Ts. capacity and the other at Koyambedu wholesale market complex with 2500 MT capacity.

(b) Thanjavur Marketing Federation

The Thanjavur Cooperative Marketing Federation is functioning as the apex society for the primary marketing societies in the districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam

(c) Nilgiris Cooperative Marketing Society

The Nilgiris Cooperative Marketing Society the apex society for the primary marketing cooperative societies in The Nilgiris District.

2. Primary Marketing Societies

At present there are 115 Primary Co-operative Marketing Societies functioning in Tamil Nadu.

TUCAS

The Tudiyalur Cooperative Agricultural Services Limited (TUCAS) is a special type of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Bank in the State, which is engaged in the distribution of its own of seeds, pesticides and other agricultural Implements to the farmers throughout the State in

addition to carrying on the activities of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Bank.

Functions of Cooperative Marketing Societies

(i) Marketing of Agricultural Produce

The Cooperative Marketing Societies help the member farmers in processing, storing and marketing their agri. produce to get reasonable price for them by eliminating middlemen. The Marketing Societies arrange for auction sale of agricultural produce and also make outright purchase from members and sell them to the consumers. The Tamil Nadu Coop. Marketing. Federation purchases agricultural commodities from Coop. Marketing Socs. and sell them to Consumer Cooperative Stores or occasionally to the merchants also when the prices are favourable. Thus Cooperative Marketing Societies serve as a bridge between producers and consumers.

(ii) Linking of Credit with Marketing

Under this scheme, the borrowers of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks are enrolled as members of the Cooperative Marketing Societies. The produce of the borrower – members are sold by the Cooperative Marketing Societies in open auction to the satisfaction of the producer and the dues to the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks are recovered from the sale proceeds and remitted to Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks.

(iii) Linking of Consumer Cooperative Stores with Marketing

In order to enable the producers to get a remunerative price for their produce and also to help the consumers to get essential commodities at reasonable prices, the Cooperative Marketing Societies have been linked with Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks and Cooperative Wholesale Stores.

(iv) Issue of Produce Pledge Loan

The Cooperative Marketing Societies also provide loans on the pledge of agricultural produce to the farmer members so as to enable them to sell the produce during favourable market conditions to realize better price for their produce. Under the scheme a sum of Rs.1947.04 lakhs has been disbursed during the year 2005-2006.

(v) Processing Units

Certain cooperatives under the control of Registrar of Cooperative Societies run processing units like Rice Mills, Ginning Units, Flour Mills, Dhal Mills, etc., These units provide processing facilities to the farmers at affordable rates. Financial assistance is extended to them in the form of share capital/ loan by the National Cooperative Development Corporation and also by the State Government. During 2005-2006 the quantity processed by these units works out to 35086.337 M.T.s

IV. Cooperative Education, Research And Training

The cooperative movement, which came into existence in the country ten decades ago, has proved to be an effective and powerful instrument to bring out socio-economic transformation. In order to help the growth of Co-operatives and spread the knowledge of its achievements among the people and shape their minds 20 State level co-operative unions are established in the country. The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Union is an apex society at state level with 20 District Cooperative Unions at District level.

Cooperative Training

In Tamil Nadu, 20 Cooperative Training Institutes are functioning of which 11 are independent and 9 are the units of Tamil Nadu Cooperative Union. These institutes conduct basic course for 36

weeks on Cooperation for the students for award of diploma in Cooperation. During the year 2006-2007, 1040 students were trained. In addition, correspondence course is also being conducted in these institutions for the benefit of employees of all types of cooperatives. Annually about 1000 employees are being trained. These institutes also conduct short duration course for the benefit of employees of cooperative functioning under the control of all functional Registrars. Diploma Course in Computer Application and other short term computer courses are being conducted. A Course on Jewel Appraisal and its Techniques is also being conducted at all Cooperative Training Institutes from the year 2004-2005.

Higher Diploma in Cooperative Management

In Tamilnadu, there are two Institutes of Coop. Management, one at Chennai and another at Madurai run by the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi. These institutes conduct the Higher Diploma Training Course for 36 weeks in Cooperative Management to graduate students. About 65 students have undergone this training during the year 2005-2006.

Technical Education

Under the control of Tamil Nadu Cooperative Union, there are three Cooperative Industrial Training Institutes, functioning at Bargur in Dharmapuri district, Pattukottai in Thanjavur district and Thiruchuzhi in Virudhunagar district. These provide technical training to the unemployed youth. An average of about 280 students get technical education in a year through these three cooperative Industrial Training Institutes. A Cooperative Polytechnic college at Lalgudi in Tiruchirapalli district is functioning under the control of Tamil Nadu Cooperative Union.

Cooperative Research

The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Union has created a chair of Rs.5.00 lakhs each in the Universities at Madras, Kamarajar, Bharathiar and Annamalai for award of scholarship from out of the interest earned on the investment of deposit to the research students who are doing research on the topic of Cooperation.

Resources

The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Union is administering the following two funds:

- a) Cooperative Research Development Fund; and
- b) Cooperative Education Fund

The Union mobilizes its resources through annual subscription from the member societies, sales of publications and collection of the share of profits from cooperative societies.

V. Special Type of Co-Operatives

(i) Cooperative Printing Presses:

Twenty six cooperative Printing presses have been established under the Cooperative fold in our state. They cater to the needs of all cooperatives, Government, Quasi Government, Local bodies and general public.

As on 31-3-2006 the total members enrolled in the presses was 12688 and paid up share capital of cooperative presses was 2.05 crores.

(ii) Salt Workers Cooperative Production and Sale Societies.

Eleven Salt Workers Cooperative Production and Sales societies were started to uplift the living conditions of the Salt Workers . At present only six societies functioning in the state . Of these 4 societies are functioning exclusively for the Adi Dravidar Members.

Various schemes including production of Iodised salt are implemented by these salt societies with the financial assistance provided by the Government under the THADCO scheme.

(iii) Labour Contract Cooperative Societies

There are 111 Labour Contract Cooperative Societies functioning in Tamil Nadu. Most of the Labour Contract Cooperative Societies are concentrated in the Regions of Kancheepuram, Kanyakumari, Dharmapuri, Salem, Tiruchirapalli. These were formed for raising the standard of living of Scheduled Castes/ and Scheduled Tribes by providing employment opportunities to the members by securing contract work. They were given financial assistance in the form of Share capital, Working Capital and Managerial subsidies from the funds obtained from the Government of India.

(iv) Other Special Types of Societies

In order to raise the standard of living of the weaker sections like barbers and washermen, 6 Barbers cooperative and three washermen cooperative societies have been started. 34 cooperative canteens also are functioning for the benefit of the weaker sections of which 31 are functioning well.

The Chennai Thuritha Thapal Pattuvada Cooperative Society is functioning in Chennai District to cater the need of Tapal (Courier) service in Chennai City.

(v) LAMPS

In order to improve the living condition of the hill tribes, 19 Large Sized Multi purpose (LAMP) cooperative societies are functioning in Tamil Nadu with a membership of 79370 as tribal members and 7248 non tribal members. Government provides financial assistance to the Lamp Societies under the Tribal Sub Plan Scheme. These societies

provide credit assistance free of interest to tribal members for cultivation and other productive purposes. This assistance is given in the form of subsidy every year under the Tribal Sub plan to the LAMP Cooperative Societies under various schemes, such as , share capital subsidy, interest subsidy, transport subsidy and subsidy for drivers' pay and maintenance of vehicles.

VI. Integrated Cooperative Development Project

The Integrated Cooperative Development Project sponsored by the National Cooperative Development Corporation is a comprehensive scheme with an objective of overall development of all co-operatives. The aim of the scheme is to achieve area based development rather than society based development. Besides the existing areas of assistance, to widen the focus of Integrated Cooperative Development Project , the scheme covers development of productive infrastructure, margin money assistance to widen their working capital base and human resources development. The National Cooperative Development Corporation New Delhi, provides financial assistance (Loan) for implementation of the scheme and provides 50% subsidy towards the cost of establishment , training, Man power development etc.

The scheme has been implemented in nine districts in Tamil Nadu and it is under implementation in six districts. It is proposed to implement the Integrated Cooperative Development Project in five more districts vi., Salem, Erode, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Pudukkottai. The project reports in respect of Salem, Erode, Madurai and Pudukkottai have been forwarded to National Cooperative Development Corporation for approval. The project proposal in respect of Tirunelveli is under preparation. The scheme will be

implemented in the remaining 9 districts (except Chennai) in a phased manner over the next three years.

CHAPTER VI

CIVIL SUPPLIES

Public Distribution System

The objective of the public distribution system is to provide food security to the masses by supplying them essential commodities at reasonable prices. In Tamil Nadu, the public distribution system has been developed over the last four decades and it is serving the people through a network of more than 28000 fair price shops. The public distribution system in Tamil Nadu is unique since it is based on the choice of the people and covers all families. Rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene are the major commodities sold to the people. Each family is issued with a family card and each card holder is entitled to a certain quantity of these commodities per month. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection regulates the functioning of the public distribution system and the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation is the agency supplying the commodities. The cooperative societies play a major role in distribution of essential commodities. They operate 27017 of the 28,995 fair price shops in the state. These shops distribute essential commodities like rice, sugar, wheat, kerosene to 1.89 crore card holders in the state. This function is carried out through an extensive network of urban and rural fair price shops totaling to 21599 shops run by 5060 Cooperative Societies comprising of 86 lead societies, 4540 link societies and 434 self lifting societies. The cooperatives are also running 5418 part time fair price shops, 36 mobile fair price shops and 266 kerosene bunks. The unique feature of Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu is that no private trader is given license to run fair price shops.

Organisational Set Up

At the state level the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection is the regulatory authority. The regulatory functions in Chennai City is looked after by two Deputy Commissioners. The city is divided into 14 zones each under the control of an Assistant Commissioner, Civil Supplies.

At the district level the District Collector is the regulatory authority for the district assisted by the Additional Collector/District Revenue Officer and the District Supply Officer. At the Taluk level, the Taluk Supply Officer regulates the functioning of the public distribution system. The licensing of fair price shops, allocation of essential commodities, ration card management and supervision of the functioning of the system are some of the major functions of the regulatory authorities. They also enforce the Essential Commodities Act and the various Control Orders issued under the Act.

Besides, the Civil Supplies CID headed by an Additional Director General of Police is also enforcing the Public Distribution System.

(iii) Procurement, Storage and Supply

The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) acts as the wholesaler in respect of rice and wheat. It takes delivery of these commodities from the Food Corporation of India and makes them available at the operational godowns from where the Cooperatives take delivery and move them to the fair price shops. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation procures rice and wheat from the Food Corporation of India and sugar from the sugar mills as per the allotments made by the Government of India. The Cooperative Societies take delivery of Kerosene from the storage points of the wholesale dealers and transport them in barrels to the fair price shops.

In some cases the wholesale dealers transport the kerosene in tankers and fill up the barrels kept in the fair price shops.

Distribution of essential commodities

Unlike other States, in Tamil Nadu, the fair price shops are run by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, cooperative societies and self help groups. There are no private operators in the distribution of essential commodities under public distribution system. There are 27017 fair price shops run by cooperatives. 1157 shops run by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation; 785 shops run by Women Self Help Groups and others and 36 mobile shops. The total number of fair price shops in the state is 28995.

Ration Card Management

The periodical requests of the public for issue of new ration cards are verified for their genuineness and new cards issued.

Procedure for issue of cards

All Indian families living in Tamil Nadu are eligible for a family card. In Chennai City and its belt areas the Assistant Commissioners of Civil Supplies issue these family cards whereas in districts the Taluk Supply Officers are the authorities competent to issue family cards. Applications with details such as full address, family particulars of family members, age and their relationship with the head of family, monthly income as a whole, reasons for not obtained card earlier, particulars of number of LPG connections along with 2 passport size photographs be made. After due enquiry, cards will be issued to the family. For obtaining duplicate cards, surrender of family cards, deletion of names, inclusion of names and non possession of family cards etc. Applications have to be made to these authorities only. For obtaining a family card in a new address, old family card issued in the

previous address has to be surrendered and a certificate issued to this effect by the licensing authority should be attached to the application.

Essential Commodities supplied under the Public distribution system.-

The essential commodities that are supplied under the public distribution system are rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene. The details of the commodities supplied under the Public distribution system, their prices and the scale of supply are given in the table below:-

Sl. No	Name of the commodity	Price per kg	Scale of supply
1	<i>Rice</i>	From 3.6.2006 Rs.2.00 per kg.	4 Kgs per adult and 2 kgs per child – Min.of 12 Kgs and Maximum of 20 kgs per month / card. In Nilgiris District. Min. of 16 kgs and Max. 24 kgs .
2	<i>Sugar</i>	Rs. 13.50	Maximum of 2 kgs per card / month. White card holders who opt to receive sugar only will be entitled to get 5 Kg. of sugar per card / month.
3	<i>Wheat</i>	Rs. 7.50	10 kgs per card / month in Chennai city and District H.Q.s and 5 kgs. in other areas
4	<i>Kerosene</i>	Price ranges from Rs. 8.40 to Rs.9.00 per litre	
		(In Litres)	
	Place	Without LPG connection	Single LPG connection
	Chennai city and District Headquarters	10	3

Other Municipalities	6	3
Township and Town panchayats	5	3
Village panchayats	3	3
Hilly Regions (The Nilgiris District) / Valparai regions in Coimbatore district / Thalavadi, Kuthiyalathur and Barugur regions in Erode District.		
Headquarters & Other Municipalities	15	3
Township and town panchayats	10	3
Village panchayats	5+5 *	3

(* adhoc basis)

Families having two LPG connections are not eligible for kerosene through fair price shops.

Ensuring Accessibility to the public distribution system.

Accessibility to the public distribution system is dependent on the possession of a family card and the distance to the fair price shop. This State has evolved a system of issuing family cards on option basis whereby all families, which prefer to draw rice under public distribution system have been issued with green colour cards and families, which want only sugar or do not want any commodity, have been issued with white colour cards. White colour cardholders with sugar option are eligible for an additional quantity of 3 Kgs of sugar per month .As on 31.3.2007, there are 1,89,93,206 cards in circulation.

The issue of family cards to eligible families is a continuous process and Government have issued necessary instructions to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection to issue cards to the families after proper verification without any delay. At the same time, bogus cards are also being eliminated to ensure that unscrupulous elements do not access the system and divert the commodities to the open market.

The aim of the Government is to have at least one fair price shop in each Revenue Village. The District Collectors have been empowered to open fair price shops as per the guidelines prescribed. The Government have issued orders to the effect that each shop in urban areas should be attached with a maximum of 1000 cards and minimum of 800 cards and in rural areas the maximum card strength should be 800 and the minimum should be 500. The fair price shops are located in such a way that no card holder is required to walk more than 2 kms for getting essential commodities.

Collectors have been instructed to open part-time fair price shops as per the guidelines to benefit the public.

However, in order to improve the quality of service to the public, norms for opening part time shops have been relaxed to open new part time shop if the distance between two fair price shops is 1.5 Kms. or more and the newly opened part-time shop will have at least 150 family cards attached to it.

Details of :

No. of cards in circulation	-	1,89,93,206
No. of shops	-	28,995
Off-take – March 2007		
Rice (including AAY)	-	2,76,399 M.Ts.
Kerosene	-	54,658 KL
Wheat	-	9,211 M.Ts.
Sugar	-	26,997 M.Ts.

Prevention Of Black Marketing And Maintenance Of Supplies Of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (Central Act 7 of 1980)

Any person can be detained under Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 in order to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of essential commodities to the public. The Inspector of Civil Supplies–CID who is the sponsoring authority will send proposal to the District Collector to detain persons who indulge in smuggling of rice meant for the Public Distribution System rice/ Kerosene to sell in the black market at a higher price. After going through the records furnished by the Inspector of Civil Supplies–CID, if the District Collector is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds, then he orders to detain the person. The maximum period of detention shall be 6 months from the date of detention. The Detention Order passed by the District Collector will be approved by Government within 12 days. After approval, the report of the detaining authority and the grounds of detention will be placed before the State Advisory Board, High Court, Chennai within 3 weeks from the date of detention. The grounds of detention, detention order and approval order of the Government will be sent to Additional Secretary to Government of

India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs, New Delhi.

The representations if any received from the detenu / relatives of the detenu will be examined in consultation with Law Department and suitable reply will be given to the detenu by the Government within a reasonable time.

The State Advisory Board, will hear the detenu in person and submit its opinion to Government within 7 weeks from the date of detention. The opinion of the State Advisory Board shall be accepted by the Government. Based on the opinion of the State Advisory Board, suitable orders will be issued by the Government.

If the detenu files a Habeas Corpus petition in the High court, the Government will closely watch the proceedings of the Court.

71 Persons have been detained under Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act for the period from May 2006 to January 2007.

Essential Commodities illegally transported from the state without a valid permit are seized by the Civil Supplies/District authorities under section 6 B of the Essential Commodities Act. The appeal against the orders of seizure can be made to the district courts.

Price Monitoring Cell

The Price Monitoring Cell functioning in the office of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection collects and collates information from various market sources on trends of prices of essential commodities, both wholesale and retail, and makes recommendations to Government in case any control measures are called for to hold the price line. The Price Monitoring Cell collects the

details of wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities prevailing in Chennai city on a daily basis from important market centers viz., Koyambedu, Kothawallchavadi, Pulianthope, T. Nagar and Adayar.

CHAPTER VII

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited

The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation was incorporated on 24th April, 1972 under the Companies Act, 1956. Later, in 1975, it was converted as State owned Public Sector Undertaking. The main functions of the Corporation are procurement of essential commodities, storage, movement of stocks to godowns and transporting the stocks to needy fair price shops. It also engages itself in procuring pulses and other commodities required for various welfare schemes of the Government. The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited is governed by the Board of Directors headed by the Chairman and Managing Director.

2. Under decentralized procurement, paddy is procured from the farmers at the rates fixed by the Government through direct purchase centers. The paddy so procured is hulled by 23 modern rice mills owned by the Corporation and by private hulling agents and distributed through public distribution system.

3. Rice and other commodities to the various welfare schemes implemented by the Government viz. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Noon Meal Programme, old age pensioners schemes, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Police, Fire and Prison personnel subsidy scheme, Sri Lanka Refugees Scheme, Forest Department personnel subsidy scheme, SC/ST, OBC students hostels are supplied by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation .

Modern Rice Mills

The Corporation has 23 modern rice mills where the Paddy procured through Direct Purchase Centre is hulled The average hulling capacity of these mills are 35,000 MTs per month.

5. **Godowns:**

There are 253 godowns run by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation for storing the paddy and rice. Out of these 169 godowns are owned by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation. In order to provide additional storage facility, godowns at Valparai, Peraiyur and Bhavani are being upgraded at a cost of Rs.90/- lakhs.

The present authorized capital of the Corporation is Rs.35 crores. Of this the paid up capital is Rs.33.89 crores. During 2006-07, the Government sanctioned Rs.1950/- crores as subsidy, Rs.500/- crores as Ways and Means advance and Rs.400/- crores as Special Ways and Means advance to the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.

CHAPTER VIII

Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation

The Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation was established in the year 1957 under the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporations Act, 1956, which was replaced by the Warehousing Corporation Act 1962. The Corporation commenced functioning with effect from 2.5.1958. It has its headquarters at Chennai with 7 Regional Offices at Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Coimbatore, Salem, Trichy, Dindigul and Tirunelveli. The main activity of the Corporation is to provide scientific storage facilities to farmers and the trading community so as to avoid storage losses.

I. Functions:

1. The Corporation is operating 63 warehouses in the State.
2. With a view to reduce wastages, the Corporation constructs its own storage godowns at specified places after conducting a detailed market survey.
3. Provides negotiable warehouse receipts to benefit farmers and traders who may secure credit facilities from banks on the basis of such receipts.
4. Provides handling and transport facilities through contractors to meet the requirements of the stock depositors; and
5. Provides pest control services.

II. Storage capacity and its utilization:

The Corporation provides storage facilities to various Government Departments, Government Undertakings, traders and farmers on rental basis at 63 places in the State. The total constructed capacity of the Godowns is 599810 M.Ts. and the rented capacity is 36000 M.Ts.

CHAPTER IX

Consumer Protection

Every consumer has the right to be protected against the marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property. They have the right to be informed of the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standards and prices of goods they buy. The consumers' interests should receive due consideration at appropriate forums relating to consumer welfare and they have a right to seek redressal against unfair trade practices or exploitation.

The Consumer Protection Act, 1986, provides for protection of the interests of the consumer and it provides for the establishment of consumer councils and courts for the settlement of consumers disputes.

CONSUMER PROTECTION COUNCILS

The State Government has established consumer protection councils at the state level and at the district levels.

(i) State Consumer Protection Council

The State Consumer Protection Council functions under the chairmanship of the Minister for Food with such other official or non official members representing such interest as may be prescribed by the State Government and such other official or non official members, not exceeding ten as may be prescribed by the Central Government. The Secretary to Government, Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection Department is the Member Secretary of the Council. The State Council shall meet as and when necessary but not less than two meetings shall be held every year. The State Council shall promote

and protect within the State the right of consumers laid down in Clause (a) to (f) of Section 6.

(ii) District Consumer Protection Council

The District Collector is the Chairman in respect of the distinct consumer protection council except in Chennai where the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer protection Department heads the council.

The district council shall meet as and when necessary but not less than two meetings shall be held every year. The District Councils shall strive to promote and protect within the districts the rights of the consumer as laid down in Clause (a) to (f) of Section 6 of the Consumer Protection Act.

Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies

There is a Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at the State level which oversees the working of the Consumer Disputes Redressal For a at the district level.

The State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Tamil Nadu is headed by Hon'ble President who is a retired judge of the Madras High Court.

The State Commission has jurisdiction to entertain all complaints where the value of the goods or services and compensation, if any, claimed exceeds Rs.20 lakhs but does not Rs.1 crore and all appeals against the orders of any District Forum in the State.

Any complaint seeking compensation of more than Rs.1 crore shall be filed before the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora

There are 30 district consumer disputes redressal fora functioning in the state.

The appointment of the President and the Members is made by the State Government on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of

- (i)_ President of the State Commission Chairman
- (ii) Secretary, Law Department of the State Member
- (iii) Secretary in charge of the Department Member
dealing with the Consumer Affairs in the
State

The details of the cases disposed off by the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora are given below.

State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

Month	Appeal Petitions					Original Petitions				
	Pending at the beginning	No. of cases filed	Total	No. of cases disposed	Balance at the end of the month	Pending	No. of cases filed	Total	No. of cases disposed	Balance at the end of the month
January 2007	2232	170	2402	49	2353	385	1	386	3	383
February 2007	2353	51	2404	59	2345	383	7	390	6	384
March	2345	50	2395	68	2327	384	5	389	8	381

District Consumer Disputes Redressal Fora

Month	Pending at the beginning of the month	No. of cases filed	Total	Cases disposed of	No. of cases pending
January 2007	7228	336	7564	306	7258
February 2007	7258	315	7573	339	7234
March 2007	7234	331	7565	375	7190

The Government is taking steps to provide adequate infrastructure and manpower to enable these fora to serve the public more efficiently.

CHAPTER X

WEBSITE ADDRESS

Department	Website address
Cooperation, Food & Consumer Protection	Coopsec@tn.gov.in
Cooperative Department, Chennai-10	rcc@tn.nic.in
Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Chennai-5	food@md3vsnl.net.in
Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Chennai-10	ccs@tn.gov.in
Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Chennai-32	tanware@md4.vsnl.net.in
State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Chennai-4	scdrc@tn.nic.in