

2.22 Social Welfare and Nutrition

2.22.1 Social Welfare programmes are designed essentially to supplement the larger effort for human development. The objective is to improve the quality of life and to cater to the special needs of vulnerable sections like children, women and the handicapped through organised and sustained developmental activities. During the past few decades of planned development, social welfare has acquired greater significance, as evidenced by its widening interface with Government and increasing participation of voluntary agencies. Upto the close of the Fourth Plan, most of the programmes were ameliorative in nature. From the Fifth Plan onwards, emphasis was shifted to the promotion of preventive and developmental services. Programmes for promoting women's welfare received fillip. These included socio-economic programmes, which provided employment opportunities to needy women and disabled persons to supplement their family incomes or to bring about their economic rehabilitation, condensed courses/ vocational training courses which prepared women for certain recognized examinations thus enabling them to qualify for specific jobs and acquire various skills, and hostels for women, which helped in providing women from far-flung areas with stay and day care facilities for their children.

2.22.2 Social Welfare encompasses a host of measures, which would fall within the ambit of the term social security. Traditionally, social security means the protection which society provides for its members, through a series of measures against the economic and social distress that would otherwise be caused by the stoppage or substantial reduction of earnings resulting from sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age and health.

2.22.3 In Tamil Nadu (as in other parts of the country), social security is provided through both promotional and protective measures. While promotional social security includes poverty alleviation programmes, employment generation programmes, provision of basic needs and the public distribution system, protective social security includes entitlements to those

affected by old age, disability, sickness, maternity, employment injury etc., and includes contributory benefits in the form of pensions and retirement benefits to Government employees provident funds and other benefits for workers in factories and other commercial establishments, pensions for vulnerable groups and marriage and maternity or other social assistance for women (and others).

Welfare of women and children

2.22.4 The status of women is reflected through indicators like literacy level, work participation rate, gender development index (GDI) etc. The GDI is a summary measure, which has been found to be useful in comparing stages of gender development. The GDI (2001) for Tamil Nadu is 0.654 as against the All-India value of 0.560 (HDR 2002). This shows that Tamil Nadu's achievement in gender equality is better than that in the country as a whole. Sex ratio in Tamil Nadu in 2001 was 986/ 1000 as against 974/ 1000 in 1991. The juvenile sex ratio in Tamil Nadu is 939 according to 2001 census as compared to 948 in 1991 census. With regard to female literacy, the rate in Tamil Nadu has increased from 27% in 1971 to 35% in 1981, 51% in 1991 and 64.55% in 2001. The female work participation rate has increased from 22.95% in 1971 to 32.41% in 1981 and to 34.41% in 1991 and it has reduced to 31.15% in 2001. The programmes, which have improved the status of women are classified broadly into economic activities, welfare support, financial assistance etc. Programmes are implemented for the rehabilitation and welfare of widows, destitutes and deserted women by providing either direct assistance for marriage and in kind like supply of sewing machines etc. or indirect assistance in the form of training in vocational courses like computer, typewriting, shorthand and involving women in various co-operative societies for promoting self employment. The other programmes under implementation are creches, balwadies, training-cum-production centres for women and institutional services for the needy women.

2.22.5 To help financially poor parents in getting their daughter married and to promote the educational status of poor girls, **Moovalur Ramammirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme** was implemented with effect from 1989. It has now been revived and

implemented with an increase of Rs.5000/- i.e. from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.15,000/- per beneficiary (for girls above 18 years).

2.22.6 Measures and Institutions for protection of children and women from abuse, exploitation, ill treatment, neglect etc., under the provision of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and to facilitate their growth and development with the ultimate objective of mainstreaming them are undertaken by the Directorate of Social Defence. The residential Institutions established under the provisions of Juvenile Act 1986 and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956 provide care, treatment, custody, educational and vocational training, rehabilitation to abandoned, neglected, destitute and delinquent children and women who came under the provisions of the above said Acts. There are totally 50 Institutions out of which 8 observation homes (6 run by the Dept directly and 2 run by the NGOs funded by Govt), 31 children homes (11 run by the Dept directly and 20 by NGOs funded by the Govt.) for boys and girls, 6 protective/ vigilance homes, 2 special homes for boys and girls and 3 aftercare organisations are run by Government and 20 by voluntary organisations. The Commissionerate is running residential institutions established under the provision of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. These Institutions provide care, treatment, custody, educational and vocational training, and rehabilitation to the children and women. The other ongoing programmes are: maintenance of homes, training to the inmates in various trades, functioning of the State level programme and monitoring cell etc.

2.22.7 The Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project (TNWDP) was initiated in 1989-90, with the assistance of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Initially, it was launched in eight districts. The focus was on the formation of SHGs of poor women to improve their economic position. A group of 12 to 20 persons of similar economic class, generally poor women get together to organize themselves into a cohesive group and start economic activities to improve the social and economic position through collective action. The success of the project led to the announcement of Mahalir Thittam in 1996-97 under State budget extending the coverage to the

entire State in a phased manner. This project is based on a long-term partnership among three agencies – the State Government, NGOs and banks/ financial institutions. The project is implemented through a network of Self Help Groups (SHGs), federations of SHGs namely Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs), Block Level Federations (BLFs) and District Level Federations (DLFs) established and nurtured with Village Officers' support at the field level. As on 31.03.2006, 3.16 lakh Self Help Groups have been formed and 50.38 lakh women have enrolled themselves with a savings estimated to Rs.1037.69 crore. Training programmes such as EDP and vocational training are also imparted to them. Members of matured SHGs who are ready to absorb loans are linked with banks and other financial institutions to avail external credit. As on 21.3.2006, 2.16 lakh SHGs have been linked with bank credit with a total financial outlay of Rs.1765.24 crore for various rural based activities such as agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry, cottage and village industries and other small business / micro enterprises in urban areas.

World Bank Aided Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project (TNEPRP)

2.22.8 The World Bank aided Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project (TNEPRP) is the Govt. of Tamil Nadu's initiative to reduce poverty and empower the women and disadvantaged in the State. The overall goal of the project is to support Government of Tamil Nadu's strategy of reducing rural poverty through support for productive activities and investments, using the Community Driven Development (CDD) approach. The project has a specific livelihood focus and will build the capacity of self-help groups and activity-based groups to undertake viable livelihood activities. Substantial technical support is proposed to be provided to the self help groups in selecting income generating activities, getting credit linkage from the banks and for sustaining their activities through market linkages and marketing support. The total cost of the project is around Rs.717.00 crore out of which the State Government's share will be around Rs.121.80 crore.

2.22.9 The Directorate for Rehabilitation of the Disabled aims to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services which include provision of special

education, vocational training, placement in jobs, assistance for self employment and free supply of appliances to improve their mobility with the ultimate objective of making the handicapped self-reliant and economically independent. According to National Sample Survey, the disabled constitute 1.9% of the total population. As per Census 2001, the total disabled population in Tamil Nadu State is 16.42 lakhs. There are 25 special schools run by the Government, out of which 11 are for the blind, 2 preschools, 10 for deaf and dumb, 1 for mentally retarded and 1 for severely orthopaedically handicapped. Financial assistance given to physically handicapped persons has been enhanced from Rs.200/- to Rs.500/- per month.

2.22.10 The outlay approved for Social Welfare for Tenth Plan was Rs. 200 crore. During the first four years of Tenth Plan i.e. in 2002-03 to 2005-06, the anticipated expenditure is reported to be Rs.1071.40 crore. During 2006-07, the agreed outlay is Rs.97565.17 lakhs. Of this, the outlay earmarked for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan is Rs.18887.20 lakh.

Nutrition

2.22.11 Nutritional status is one of the indicators of the overall well being of population and human resources development. Malnutrition is the cumulative effect of factors like poverty, inadequate access to food, illiteracy, large size families, poor environmental sanitation, lack of basic minimal health care, lack of personal hygiene, lack of easy access to adequate safe drinking water and lack of awareness. The manifestations of malnutrition could be seen in the prevalence of specific nutrient-deficiency disorders such as protein-energy malnutrition, anaemia, night blindness, goitre, susceptibility to a number of infectious diseases, low birth weight of children, high IMR and MMR, lack of resistance to illnesses among mothers and children, growth retardation (both physical and mental) and stunting among toddlers. Infants, growing children, pregnant and lactating women are the most malnourished segments of the society and they need adequate nutritional support.

Nutritional Programmes

2.22.12 Providing food for children outside the home is not a new idea in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu has a long history of providing organised child care

services which emphasise on nutrition to children outside home under institutional care. In 1956, a school midday meal scheme was in operation in 8000 elementary schools covering 2 lakh children. In 1961, CARE offered Bulgar wheat under which children in 30000 schools were covered. In 1967, the system was radically modified to operate through central kitchens. In 1970, a Special Nutrition Programme was introduced to cover the children below the school age group. Following the adoption of National Policy for Children in 1974, the scheme of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was launched initially (with the assistance from Government of India) in three pilot areas in the State in 1976. With further expansion of ICDS in Tamil Nadu, 116 blocks/ projects are now in operation under the General ICDS following the All-India pattern. The scheme provides a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school education, health and nutrition education for the mothers. The target groups are children in age group of 0-5, expectant women and nursing mothers. In each ICDS project, there are child welfare centres called Anganwadi centres (AWCs) serving as the focal point for delivery of services under ICDS schemes.

2.22.13 Independently, in 1980, the Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project (TINP-I, 1980 to 1989) was started with the World Bank aid with a focus on the nutritionally most vulnerable groups, children under three years along with pregnant and nursing women and eventually covered 174 blocks. A second World Bank assisted nutrition project, TINP-II that was started in 1991 covered all non - ICDS blocks in the State. This was operational till December 1997. TINP-II was replaced by World Bank assisted ICDS III (WB-ICDS III) from 1998.

2.22.14 Earlier, starting on 1st July 1982, Tamil Nadu saw the beginning of one of the largest phased expansions of mid-day feeding through the **Nutritious Meal Programme (NMP)**. This is a major hunger programme to provide a substitute hot meal in centres to combat hunger. Starting with rural preschooler (2+ to 5 years), the scheme was expanded in phases to cover urban areas, school children upto 15 years of age, pregnant and lactating mothers and various categories of pensioners for social security. This feeding

programme is covered under the State budget. From 1995 onwards, under the National programme of nutritional support to primary education, free rice at the rate of 100 grams per child per day for 10 months / 200 days in an academic year is given to primary school children studying in I to V standards. The NMP has been well integrated with the General ICDS and WB aided ICDS Project in respect of the pre school population. Apart from the noon meal, the ICDS centres provide complementary nutritional supplements to children below 24 months (36 in the case of WB-ICDS III). In addition, other child development services are also in operation like pre-school education, inputs for early childhood care and development, health inputs to complement direct nutrition inputs, health care for the pregnant and lactating mothers, schemes for adolescent girls and a variety of IEC activities. The noon meal for children is proposed to be enhanced with the provision of 2 eggs per week per child with effect from 15.07.2006 to increase protein intake of the beneficiary children.

2.22.15 At present, there are 116 General ICDS Projects in the State, of which 67 are in rural areas, 2 in tribal areas and 47 in urban slums. In addition, there are 318 WB-ICDS Projects, all in rural areas. Totally, there are 42677 centres (23177 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) under General ICDS III and 19,500 under WB ICDS project functioning in Tamil Nadu serving a population of 1.17 crores and feeding 10.39 lakh children and 5.54 lakh adults. If the 41,590 school centres are added, the coverage under direct nutrition intervention is 77.62 lakh beneficiaries through 83658 centres. In respect of coverage of SC/ST, two separate tribal projects are under operation in General ICDS.

2.22.16 Thus, though the feeding programmes would have been started to combat hunger, the Government has over the years made serious efforts to combine provision of food under NMP with other services such as health care, immunization, growth monitoring, pre & post natal care for women, communication and nutrition education through programmes like ICDS and TINP. The number of centres and number of beneficiaries at present under the various nutrition programmes are given below:

Current status of Nutrition Programmes

Scheme	Number of Centres	Number of Beneficiaries			Total
		Children		AN/PN Mothers and Old Age Pensioners	
		Supplementary Food	Nutritious Meal		
		6-36 months	2-5 yrs (24 to 60 months)		
1	2	3	4	5	6
ICDS Scheme	23177 **	314462	319076	150780 (AN/PN mothers) 10975 (OAP)	795293
WBICDS	19500	357086	720691	359116(mothers) 33428 (OAP)	1470321
Total	42677	671548	1039767	554299	2265614

** GOI's approval obtained for 3049 new centers

2.22.17 The outlay approved for Nutrition for Tenth Plan was Rs.400.00 crore. During the first four years of Tenth Plan i.e. in 2002-03 to 2005-06, the anticipated expenditure is reported to be Rs.2085.43 crore. During 2006-07, the agreed outlay is Rs.78055.48 lakhs. Of this, the outlays earmarked for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan are Rs.10374.02 lakh and Rs.18.56 lakh respectively.

**Statement I
Annual Plan 2006 - 07 - Agreed Outlay**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Major/Minor Heads of Development	Annual Plan 2005-06		Annual Plan 2006-07
		Agreed Outlay	Anticipated Expenditure	Agreed Outlay
1	2	3	4	5
	I. AGRICULTURE & ALLIED ACTIVITIES			
1	Crop Husbandry	32214.90	16121.16	9725.08
2	Soil & Water Conservation	7055.93	4601.86	8795.27
3	Animal Husbandry	1247.18	1587.45	2149.15
4	Dairy Development	59.50	59.50	322.94
5	Fisheries	1593.30	2366.55	4113.53
6	Forestry & Wild Life, Plantations	14253.38	12289.32	17393.05
7	Food Storage, Ware Housing & Marketing control	19.26	18.23	473.30
8	Agri.Research & Education	5045.27	6191.90	9795.74
9	Agri. Financial Institutions	100.00	0.00	700.01
10	Co-operation	7975.42	6459.22	2507.51

	Total - I	69564.14	49695.19	55975.58
	II. RURAL DEVELOPMENT			
1	Special Program for R.D.	54401.15	79632.97	108619.05
2	Land Reforms	24.39	0.00	0.00
3	Community Development	61694.92	65948.54	42219.82
	Total - II	116120.46	145581.51	150838.87
	III. SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMMES			
1	Special Area Programme	11040.00#		5254.00
	Total - III	11040.00	0.00	5254.00
	IV. WATER RESOURCES			
1	Major & Medium Irrigation & Flood Control and Anti-sea Erosion etc.	26943.91	18072.19	39898.34
2	Minor Irrigation	6160.33	4651.23	10976.05
3	Command Area Development	1839.44	2042.45	2147.35
	Total - IV.	34943.68	24765.87	53021.74
	V. ENERGY			
1	Power	130464.32	165184.14	100724.03
2	Non-Conventional Sources of Energy	578.93	655.35	75.92
	Total - V.	131043.25	165839.49	100799.95
	VI. INDUSTRY & MINERALS			
1	Village & Small Industries	36460.54	34380.14	38490.10
2	Other Industries(other than VSI)	11695.11	9106.34	11331.10
3	Minerals	14.94	22.40	88.21
	Total - VI	48170.59	43508.88	49909.41
	VII. TRANSPORT			
1	Port & Light Houses Shipping	300.02	0.00	850.02
2	Roads and Bridges	140959.21	172856.40	243572.79
3	Road & Inland water Transport	4176.83	1726.53	20375.44
	Total - VII	145436.06	174582.93	264798.25
	VIII. COMMUNICATIONS			
	IX. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT			
1	Scientific Services & Research (inc S&T)	224.91	231.25	229.35
2	Ecology & Environment	356.61	590.53	1185.90
	Total - IX	581.52	821.78	1415.25
	X. GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES			
1	Secretariat Economic Services	1869.90	8367.69	10515.06
2	Tourism	2266.70	1728.92	2770.22
3	Surveys & Statistics	49.76	68.44	82.02
4	Weights & Measures	0.02	0.00	25.02
5	Civil Supplies	172.87	105.92	204.43
	Total - X.	4359.25	10270.97	13596.75
	XI. SOCIAL SERVICES			
1	General Education	37205.36	38049.48	50658.30
2	Technical Education	4852.15	5277.37	4421.20
3	Sports & Youth Services	1396.01	3239.45	1900.23
4	Art & Culture	836.07	412.87	1291.59
5	Medical & Public Health	26874.17	34400.68	46564.75
6	Water Supply & Sanitation	62577.07	58579.22	57357.02

7	Housing (Incl. Police Housing)	10838.16	10302.06	10139.53
8	Urban Development	37039.00	33483.20	85259.76
9	Information & Publicity	225.13	62.99	181.72
10	Welfare of SCs/STs/OBCs	40311.94	40396.59	47872.41
11	Labour & Labour Welfare	7060.54	6501.67	13188.26
12	Social Security & Social Welfare	49867.76	50076.87	97565.17
13	Nutrition	61565.43	65026.99	78055.48
14	Other Social Services	2533.63	1699.07	50216.76
	Total - XI	343182.42	347508.51	544672.18
	XII. GENERAL SERVICES			
1	Stationery & Printing	100.01	99.57	193.17
2	Public Works	6815.62	4909.84	9524.85
	Total - XII	6915.63	5009.41	9718.02
	Grand Total	911357.00	967584.54	1250000.00

Reflected in respective sectors.