

2.30. Welfare of the Disabled and the Aged

Rehabilitation of the Disabled

The objective for the disabled is to provide comprehensive measures necessary for prevention of disability and development of physical, mental and social capabilities of people with disabilities.

Tamil Nadu leads other States in implementing the various provision of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, this act is being implemented to make as many disabled as possible active self-reliance and productive contributors to the State. The state intends 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. There are 266 special schools – 25 Government schools, 58 aided schools, 182 unaided schools and 1 municipal school functioning to provide special education to the disabled children. Financial Assistance given to severely disabled persons has been enhanced from Rs.200/- to Rs.500/- per month from 2006 onwards. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs.1 crore is provided for purchase of aids and appliances to benefit 9006 disabled persons. In order to provide a thrust for the rehabilitation and welfare of Mentally Disabled, an amount of Rs.13 crore has been made for providing assistance to reputed NGOs, for maintaining special institutions for mentally retarded during 2007-08. The welfare programmes are to be carried out by the NGOs viz., provision of maintenance allowance, creation of early intervention centres, residential and non-residential schools and adult mentally retarded homes for both boys and girls in every district. During 2008-09, an amount of Rs.15 crore is proposed.

Financial assistance of Rs.10,000/- is also given for the normal persons marrying blind/ deaf and dumb and orthopaedically disabled. For 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 1.32 crore is proposed. An

amount of Rs. 68.89 lakh is proposed for 2008-09 to NGOs for providing hostel facilities to the blind students.

Establishment of Disabled Welfare Board

The Government have established a separate welfare board for disabled to ensure the continuing government attention and assistance for the disabled in the future. An amount of Rs.1 crore has been provided for the establishment of welfare board and also to implement social security scheme for the disabled during 2007-08. For 2008-09, an amount of Rs.1.15 crore is proposed for this scheme.

Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities

Programmes for Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities has been implemented in 6 districts namely, Tiruvannamalai, Theni, Kanchipuram, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur and Tiruvarur at a cost of Rs.1.90 crore during 2006-07 to benefit 1.17 lakh persons benefit under this scheme. It has been further extended to 5 districts viz., Tirunelveli, Sivagangai, Krishnagiri, Pudukottai and Dharmapuri in the year 2007-08. For 2008-09, an amount of Rs.2.43 crore is proposed for this scheme.

Social safety net for the aged

The objective for the aged is to provide a social security net for the aged poor through provision of pension and basic necessities such as noon meal, free sarees, dhoties etc.

In order to provide social security to old age population/ physically handicapped/ destitute widows/ deserted wives and destitute agricultural labourers who have no means of subsistence and have no relatives, old age pension schemes are being implemented. As on 30.9.2007, 5.49 lakh persons are benefited under old age pension (normal) scheme. For 2008-09, Rs.314.58 crore is proposed for this scheme. The old age people have also given midday meals plus 2 kgs of rice per head per month or 4 kgs of rice per head per month for those who do not take meals at the NMP centres supplied through fair price shops and 2 dhoties/ sarees at the time of

Pongal and Deepavali festivals. For 2008-09, Rs. 4605.88 lakh is proposed. In order to give proper institutional care to the elderly, the Govt., provides grant to the Voluntary Institutions for running 30 old age homes. About 1029 old age persons are being benefited. An amount of Rs.2 lakh per old age home is given as grant by the State Govt.

Besides Annapurna scheme is also being implemented in the state. Under this scheme 10 kgs of rice per month supplied free of cost to the destitutes/ senior citizens with the target of 71,974 beneficiaries fixed by the Government of India. For 2008-09, Rs.6.35 crore is proposed for this scheme.

Plan outlay for 2008-09

The outlay approved for Social Welfare for Eleventh Plan (2007-12) is Rs.4349.60 crore. The outlay provided for Social Welfare sector for 2007-08 is Rs.997.53 crore. An amount of Rs. 1002.59 crore is expected to be incurred during the period. The outlay approved for Women's Development and Child Rights and Welfare of the Disabled and the Aged under the Social Welfare sector for 2008-09 is Rs.943.74 crore. Of this, an amount of Rs. 384.39 crore and Rs.0.43 crore is earmarked for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan respectively.