

### **6.3. Surface Transport**

Surface Transport occupies a primary place in the today's world as it provides a reach unparalleled by any other contemporary mode of transport. An efficient transport system is a pre-requisite for sustained economic development. The transport system also plays an important role of promoting the development of the backward regions and integrating them with the mainstream economy by opening them to trade and investment. The State utilizes all the three modes of major transporting systems viz., roadways, railways and airways in an effective manner. Road plays a pivotal role in supporting economic and social development of the State. In the state of Tamil Nadu, the bus transport system is a dominant mode of transport covering the length and breadth of the State and it enjoys the maximum public patronage and contact, much more than any other Government system.

#### **State Transport Undertakings (STU)**

State Transport Undertaking (STUs) - Till 1971 State Transport Operations were under the control of Tamil Nadu Government. After 1971, this was entrusted to various Transport Corporations registered under the companies Act, 1956. The Pattabiraman Committee in 1976 and the Thillainayagam Committee in 1990 gave various recommendations for the improvement of the STUs and they were implemented wherever possible.

The 21 Transport Corporations were amalgamated to form seven Transport Corporations, with a view to reduce the administrative overheads and to avoid wasteful competition in the operation of services among the Corporations. Of the seven transport corporations that operate in Tamil Nadu now, one is meant exclusively for operation of services in city of Chennai, one exclusively for the operation of Express services on the long distance intra-state and inter-state routes, and the five other Corporations operate Mofussil and Town Services in the Districts.

As on 29.02.2008, the State Transport Undertakings are operating 19388 buses viz., 7298 Mofussil buses (37.64%), 8847 Town/Metro buses (45.63%), 520 Ghat buses (2.68%), 874 Express buses (4.51%) and 1849 Spare buses (9.54%).

### **Tamil Nadu Transport Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (TDFC)**

TDFC Ltd. commenced its business in March 1975 to cater to the long term financial requirements of State Transport Undertakings towards the purchase of new bus chassis, body building, setting up of workshops and also to meet the working capital requirements by mobilizing adequate funds from the general public through public deposits. TDFC has been registered as a Non Banking Finance Company with the Reserve Bank of India and classified as a Hire Purchase Company. The authorised share capital of the company is Rs.70.00 crore and paid up share capital is Rs. 61.74 crore of which the Government has contributed Rs. 43.03 crore and the STUs have contributed Rs. 18.71 crore till date. The financial assistance extended by the Transport Development Finance Corporation to the State Transport Undertakings since its inception upto 31.03.2007 is Rs.6523.98 crore. An amount of Rs.165 crore was provided during the year 2008-09. The anticipated expenditure is Rs.220 crore. Hence, an outlay of Rs.25 crore is proposed for the year 2009-10.

### **Motor Vehicle Maintenance Department (MVMD)**

Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Maintenance Department (MVMD) undertakes maintenance/ repair of all Government vehicles spread over in the State. It is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of about 10,000 vehicles. There are 20 Government Automobile Workshops in the District Headquarters throughout the State and one Service Station at Secretariat for this purpose. The proposed schemes are computerizing the activities of Unit workshops and creation of website for Motor Vehicles Maintenance Department, restructuring the workshop layout to meet out the present environment, conducting regular training programmes to impart training to the personnel on the new generation vehicles to update their knowledge and skill and strengthening of the Department for better performance, active supervision and control.

The expenditure under this head includes the establishment charges and pay and allowances to staff working in the 17 Government Automobile Workshops who are coming under ongoing plan schemes. An amount of Rs.4.06 crore was provided during the year 2008-09. The anticipated expenditure is Rs.3.77 crore. Hence, an outlay of Rs.3.68 crore is proposed for the year 2009-10.

### **Short-term loan to State Transport Undertakings**

The State Transport Undertakings have made a projection of 11000 new buses put on road during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. It is proposed to purchase 3130 new buses during the year 2009-10 with the financial support from Government and the balance buses are to be purchased through TDFC.

For the year 2008-09, as against a provision of Rs.165.00 crore, the expenditure anticipated is Rs.171.39 crore. A sum of Rs.25 crore is proposed for the year 2009-10.

### **Special initiatives e-governance in Transport Department**

Special initiatives e-governance in a Transport Department, first initiated during 1999 to computerize some of the functions in Transport Department. Computerization has been taken up in 3 phases. In the first phase 13 Regional transport offices and 3 unit offices were computerized. In the second phase 32 Regional Transport Offices and 8 Unit Offices and in the third and concluding phase remaining 29 unit offices, one Regional Transport Office, 7 Zonal Deputy Transport Commissioner's offices and office of the State Transport Appellate Tribunal, Chennai were covered.

At present all the services related to the general public such as issue of licences, permits, registration certificates, fitness certificates, tax payment etc. are being implemented through computers using the customized by NIC.

As of today all 53 Regional Transport Offices, 45 Unit Offices, 7 Zonal offices, State Transport Authority and State Transport Appellate Tribunal of Transport Department are computerized using Vahan and Sarathi software developed by NIC.

An amount of Rs. 32.23 lakh was provided during the year 2008-09. The anticipated expenditure is Rs.45.40 lakh. Hence, an outlay of Rs.110.40 lakh is proposed for the year 2009 -10.

**Plan Outlay for 2009-10**

The outlay approved for Surface Transport sector during 2009-10 is Rs.55.44 crore.