

#### **7.4. 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. For the year 2009-10, an amount of Rs.179.18 lakh is proposed for purchase of aids and appliances to benefit 7700 disabled persons. In order to provide a thrust for the rehabilitation and welfare of Mentally Disabled, an amount of Rs.649.16 lakh is proposed for providing assistance to reputed NGOs, for maintaining special institutions for mentally retarded during 2009-10. 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.

Financial assistance which has been raised from Rs.10000/- to R.20000/- during the year 2006-07 is given for the normal persons marrying blind/ deaf and dumb and orthopaedically disabled. For 2009-10, an amount of Rs.49 lakh is proposed. An amount of Rs. 63.10 lakh is proposed for 2009-10 to NGOs for providing hostel facilities to the blind students.

***a. 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 2008-09. An amount of Rs.1 crore is proposed for the year 2009-10.

***b. Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities***

Programmes for Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities have been implemented in 7 districts namely, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tirunelveli, Sivagangai, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, and Tiruvarur. The programme aims at providing rehabilitation services at various levels starting from Grama Panchayat to district level. Training programme is also conducted to NGOs, government servants and others on Rehabilitation of the disabled at State Resource cum Training Centre at Chennai. For 2009-10, an amount of Rs.161.86 lakh 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 pension/ 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. The National Old Age Pension scheme has been renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension scheme on 19.11.2007. As on 30.9.2008, 7.25 lakh old age persons are benefited under old age pension (normal) scheme. In addition to this, Government have extended the pension scheme to unmarried poor women of aged 50 years and above from July 2008 and this benefited 6444 women. For 2009-10 and outlay of Rs.3.44 crore has been 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 dhoties/sarees at the time of Pongal and Deepavali festivals. For 2009-10, Rs.40.49 crore is proposed.

Further, Annapurna scheme is also being implemented in the state. Under this scheme 10 kgs of rice per month supplied free of cost to the destitute / senior citizens with the target of 71,974 beneficiaries fixed by the Government of India.

#### **Plan Outlay for 2009-10**

The outlay approved for Social Welfare for Eleventh Plan (2007-12) is Rs.4349.60 crore. The outlay approved for Women's Development and Child Rights and Welfare of the Disabled and the Aged under the Social Welfare sector for 2009-10 is Rs.1235.34 crore. Of this, the outlays approved for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Area Sub Plan are Rs.415.95 crore and Rs.0.50 crore respectively.