



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

BUDGET SPEECH

2021 - 2022

Thiru **N. RANGASAMY**

Hon'ble Chief Minister

An aerial view of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam, Puducherry

26th August, 2021

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குற்றம் இலனாய்க் குடிசெய்து வாழ்வானைச்
சுற்றமாச் சுற்றும் உலகு. – குறள்

*“The world will befriend and gather round
him who lives a blameless life of service
to his people”.* – Kural

**Hon’ble Speaker and Hon’ble Members of
Legislature,**

Vanakkam !

I rise to present the budget for the financial year 2021-22 before this august House. Hon’ble Members are being supplied copies of Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2021-22. I am immensely happy to present my first budget in the newly constituted fifteenth Legislative Assembly and I owe this great opportunity given to me to the people of the Union Territory of Puducherry. On this occasion,

I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and all the leaders of National Democratic Alliance who have wholeheartedly supported me in the Assembly election. I take this opportunity to assure that my Government will strive hard to satisfy the expectations of the people and fulfill the promises made by us to the people of Puducherry. I also assure the Hon'ble Members that my Government will work hard for the upliftment of all sections of the people with special focus on vulnerable sections of the society. Keeping this in view, immediately after I assumed charge, I have implemented some of the assurances made to the people such as extending old age pension to additional 10,000 new beneficiaries and increase of ₹ 500 to all categories of beneficiaries under Old Age Pension Scheme.

2. In order to mitigate the suffering of poor families due to lockdown enforced to contain Corona Virus, cash assistance of ₹ 3,000 to all family ration card holders in two instalments have been disbursed.

3. Hon'ble Members are well aware that the spread of COVID pandemic has led to loss of many lives in the Union Territory of Puducherry and adversely affected the economy of the Union Territory. With the intensity of the pandemic having come down now, many lockdown relaxations have been announced by my Government so that the poor and vulnerable sections do not suffer economically. I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the COVID warriors and at the same time pay accolade to those who sacrificed their lives in this battle against Corona. The contribution of Doctors, Nurses, ASHA workers, Police and Revenue officials, Sanitary workers and others who are involved in this stupendous task are commendable.

4. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, only Vote on Account was presented covering routine expenditure for five months for this financial year due to Legislative Assembly elections. The Budget

size for the year 2021-22 has been fixed at ₹ 9,924.41 crore. The Union Territory's own revenue receipts have been estimated ₹ 6,190.00 crore. The Central assistance will be ₹ 1,729.77 crore including Disaster Relief Fund of ₹ 5.00 crore. The allocation under Centrally Sponsored Scheme is estimated to be ₹ 320.23 crore. The Government of India has approved borrowings to the extent of ₹ 1,684.41 crore to overcome fiscal deficit. The allocation of resources will be ₹ 1,200.44 crore under Capital Head and ₹ 8,723.97 crore under Revenue Head.

5. The total outstanding debt of the Union Territory of Puducherry as on 31st March 2021 is ₹ 9,334.78 crore which is 22.17% of GSDP (2020-21), well within FRBM norms. The average growth rate of GSDP of Union Territory of Puducherry is around 10% as against the average National growth of 7% to 8%.

6. The expenditure incurred during the last financial year 2020-21 was ₹ 8,342.87 crore which works out to 92.70% of the Revised Estimate. Due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and receipt of funds under some schemes from Central Government at the fag end of the financial year, the expenditure under CSS was 64.13%. The unutilized amount under CSS will however be carried over to this financial year for booking expenditure under respective schemes.

7. Hon'ble Members are aware that a major portion of our financial resources goes to meeting the committed expenditure such as salaries, pension, repayment of loan and interest payments. Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 9,924.41 crore for the year 2021-22, ₹ 2,140 crore is allocated for salaries (21.56%), ₹ 1,050 crore for pensions (10.58%) and ₹ 1,715 crore for debt servicing (17.28%) *i.e.*, payment of loan and payment of interest, and ₹ 1,591 crore for power purchase (16.03%). Other major expenditure of the Government includes

Old Age Pension and other welfare schemes to the tune of ₹ 1,290 crore (13%), Grant-in-aid to society-run higher educational institutions, Public Sector Undertakings, local bodies, Co-operative Institutions and others to the extent of ₹ 1,243 crore (12.52%).

8. With this prelude, I present department-wise proposals for the year 2021-22.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

9. Agriculture is the major source of income for rural population. Agriculture augments income, ensures food security and reduces poverty. Keeping this in view, my Government will give priority for implementing farmers welfare schemes in our Union Territory.

10. Under “Crop Production Technology”, subsidy @ ₹ 5,000 per acre to all paddy growing farmers will continue to be paid. At the same time, the required paddy seeds will be distributed to general

category farmers @ ₹ 10 per Kg. and for SC category with 75% subsidy. Further, bio-fertilizers, insecticides and neem cake will be distributed with 75% subsidy for general category and 100% subsidy for SC category. A Mission Mode Scheme for Vegetable Production and Distribution is proposed to be implemented in Mahe region in coordination with Horticulture Co-operative Society, ATMA groups and Residential Associations.

11. To increase the income of farmers, silpaulin, tarpaulin, hand sprayers, power sprayers, azolla cultivation bags etc., are proposed to be distributed at 50% subsidy to the farmers. The Government will initiate action for increasing azolla production for feeding the cattle, goat and poultry by distribution of silpaulin grow bags at 50% subsidy.

12. Under “Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana Scheme” (RKVY) an incubation centre is proposed to be established for value addition of agricultural produce

for the benefit of the small and marginal farmers at Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Action will be taken to promote Micro and Small Village Food Processing and Value Addition enterprises by extending 50% subsidy to the individual farmers, rural women, Self Help Group etc., who come forward to set up processing and value addition facility for processing of food grains, fruits, vegetables and other agricultural commodities.

13. A Mobile App will be launched through which farmers would be able to register themselves for financial assistance, ascertain the availability of agricultural inputs, weather bulletins of the Agricultural Meteorological Unit and a host of other services.

14. It is proposed to establish a modern e-NAM Mandi in the new premises proposed to be constructed at ECR to cater to the needs of the farmers of Puducherry with spacious auction yards, wide internal roads for free movement of agricultural goods brought

in and out of the Mandi, a bank with ATM facility, a store for agricultural inputs, rest sheds, sanitary blocks for the farmers, an electronic weighbridge and a central e-NAM room.

15. The Regulated Market functioning at Koonichampet in a rented premises will be relocated at a vantage point as there is a growing demand from the farming community to shift the Regulated Market to a convenient location for the farmers. Considering the increase in the demand for vegetables and to regularise the street side vegetable shops of the farmers, new Uzhavar Sandhai at Villianur and Thirukkanur are proposed to be established this year.

16. It is proposed to construct Check Dams for conservation of ground water for Puducherry and Karaikal regions under the approved components of the District Irrigation Scheme. Financial assistance will be sought from Government of India under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

17. The community tube-wells of Karaikal region acts as major source of irrigation during Kuruvai and summer season. Nearly 1,500 hectare lands are irrigated by these tube-wells. To maintain the command area under cultivation, the tube-wells under repair has to be restored and new ones has to be constructed. Therefore, in the first phase it is proposed to construct/repair five community tube-wells at an estimated cost of ₹ 60 lakh.

18. To bring back the fallow lands for cultivation the Government would support for the removal of the trees/bushes in the fallow lands for which a capital cost of ₹ 10,000 per hectare for a maximum of 2 Ha. per individual will be given as subsidy for making the land suitable for cultivation.

19. The farmers of Karaikal region mostly use the open channels for conveyance of irrigation water from the point of water source to the outlet points which leads to major water loss. To minimize the wastage of irrigation water it is proposed to extend

70% subsidy assistance to general category farmers and 90% subsidy for other category farmers for purchase of low density polyethylene pipes subject to maximum of ₹ 15,000 per individual. This component is proposed to be implemented under the scheme Ground Water Recharge, Conservation and Development.

20. A sum of ₹ 124.47 crore has been allocated for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department in 2021-22.

FOREST AND WILDLIFE

21. Forest Department in coordination with other departments has planted around 75,000 forest tree saplings along the roadsides, tank bunds, educational Institutions, industries, farmers' lands etc. as a part of celebrations of 75th year of Independence Day. It is proposed to distribute 10,000 tree saplings of Teak, Red Sanders and Sandal Wood to farmers on free of cost. It is also proposed to establish a garden with 75 Bonsais, 75 flowering plants and

75 cacti in commemoration of 75th Independence Day. As a part of Pasumai Pudhuvai initiative, 75 vertical gardens across the Union Territory of Puducherry will be created. An arboretum at Manapet with adventure activities and water storage structure in Manapet Forest land will be established. Suitable schools will be identified where tree nurseries will be established with the financial assistance of Government of India. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, it is proposed to establish office building at Karakal. As per Central Zoo Authority guidelines, it is proposed to prepare DPR (Detailed Project Report) for establishing Zoological Park in Puducherry in 70 - 100 acre area.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

22. In order to augment the growth of livestock, poultry and their products in the Union Territory of Puducherry, special emphasis will be given to protect livestock health, enhance productivity and create entrepreneurship.

23. To attain optimum milk production from individual milch animals, the target for Artificial Insemination for cattle to produce desirable future stock with superior Germplasm has been fixed as 70,000 and it is targeted to produce 20,000 calves in the year 2021-22. Further, based on the notion “Today’s calf Tomorrow’s Cow”, farmers are encouraged to rear female calves born out of artificial insemination through Calf Rallies campaign. It has been proposed to conduct Calf Rallies at Veterinary Dispensaries and Key Village Units and cash prizes will be awarded to the owners of healthy, well reared female calves.

24. In order to facilitate availability of a new germplasm of a different origin and to prevent inbreeding, frozen semen from Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala, Gujarat [National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)] have been purchased. Sahiwal (Indigenous breed) semen is being used for breeding purpose.

25. To augment goat meat production, Superior Malabari goat semen will be distributed to all Key Village Units for insemination and grading of local goat population. To encourage backyard poultry rearing, 1,000 dual purpose poultry (Giriraja birds) will be reared in Government poultry farms and distributed to the farmers at 50% subsidy every month. In order to reduce the cost of rearing of milch animals and to enhance milk production, a scheme of providing cattle feed at 75% subsidy to the non-members of milk co-operative societies will be implemented this year. It is proposed to provide balanced compound calf feed at 75% subsidy under Special Livestock and Breeding Programme to cross breed Heifer Calves being reared in the Union Territory of Puducherry to replace the dairy cows.

26. My Government is keen on making the Union Territory of Puducherry self-sufficient in milk production. Towards this objective, it is proposed to :

- (i) distribute 4,000 milch animals to the interested farmers @ 25% subsidy for general and 33% subsidy for Scheduled Castes beneficiaries ;
- (ii) area specific mineral mixture will be distributed to all lactating cows to increase milk agricultural production and to enhance conception rate ;
- (iii) under Kamadhenu Padhukappu Insurance Scheme, high yield cows with a production capacity of 12 litres /day or more will be identified to obtain high yielding female calves out of them through selective breeding with superior germplasm ;
- (iv) Sex sorted semen technology will be introduced to yield only female calves for increased milk production ;
- (v) technical skill oriented training for 2-7 days will be given to the interested farmers to start Sheep / Goat and Poultry farm etc.

by utilising the services of experts from RIVER and Animal Husbandry Department and loan facility will be arranged through Nationalised Banks / NABARD; and

- (vi) purchase of 3 ambulance vehicles for functioning as Mobile Veterinary dispensaries, two for Puducherry region and one for Karaikal region.

As a result of these initiatives, milk production is expected to increase from 1,22,000 litres to 1,75,600 litres approximately.

27. A sum of ₹ 44.88 crore has been allocated for Animal Husbandry Department in 2021-22.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

28. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, with the implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of benefits intended for family ration card holders,

the Fair Price Shops including those that are run by PAPSCO have lost its relevance. In the absence of distribution of essential commodities through FPS, the FPS employees are facing much hardship.

29. The Government of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has established a “Price Stabilisation Fund” under which State / Union Territory Government / Co-operative Institutions are given interest free advance to procure and sell essential commodities as a market intervention strategy to stabilise the price of such commodities. The State / Union Territory Government is also required to provide equal amount. My Government will take all necessary efforts for revival of the Fair Price Shops by creating a “Corpus Fund” for this purpose depending upon the availability of financial resources, so that the essential commodities like pulses, cereals, oil, etc. can be sold through Fair Price Shops. The Civil Supplies Department will study the feasibility of this project and submit a report to Government early.

30. An amount of ₹ 197.50 crore has been allocated for free rice scheme.

COOPERATION

31. The Hon'ble Members are aware that Co-operatives play an important role in socio-economic development. It provide huge opportunities for reducing poverty, providing affordable finance, creating employment, empowerment of women etc. My Government will provide all necessary support to the economically weaker sections through co-operative institutions. Despite financial constraints, 10% increase in budget allocation has been proposed in this financial year for co-operative institutions. Further allocation will be considered depending upon the availability of resources at R.E. stage.

32. To enrich value added milk products, it is proposed to set up a plant in Bahour Commune for manufacturing of Milk Khova at a project cost of ₹ 1.67 crore. One refrigerated vehicle at a

cost of ₹ 12 lakh for the purpose of transportation of milk and by-products to its parlours will be procured through Karaikal Milk Producers Union and the existing laboratory will be further strengthened. PONLAIT by-products units will be expanded at an estimated cost of ₹ 2.50 crore.

33. Considering the plight of the sugar mill workers, my Government has allocated ₹ 40 crore in B.E. 2021-22 to Puducherry Co-operative Sugar Mills for settlement of lay-off salary / wages and EPF dues. The possibilities of running the mill will be explored.

34. My Government has proposed to undertake sand quarrying at Manamedu Village for supply of sand exclusively to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana a Flagship programme for Housing.

35. In order to promote digital literacy among rural people, a Mobile Van for extending ATM Service has been purchased through the Puducherry State Co-operative Bank.

36. A sum of ₹ 69.70 crore has been allocated for Cooperation in 2021-22.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

37. It is indisputable that schools are the foremost fountain of knowledge children are exposed to. A school must stimulate curiosity in the young minds and equip them with tools to be better human beings. My Government is determined that free and quality education must be provided to all especially the vulnerable sections of the society and make the Union Territory of Puducherry a 100% literacy State.

38. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has paralysed the regular functioning of schools. Considering the prevailing situation, the Government has decided to reopen the schools soon. In order to eradicate illiteracy and to wipe out cases of school dropouts, many welfare schemes like free distribution of

text books, note books, uniforms, midday meals, morning breakfast, transport facilities on concessional rate at ₹ 1 per student, scholarship etc., are being implemented and the same will continue to be implemented. Subject-wise motivational classes and NEET coaching are also extended to enable students to succeed in the competitive examinations.

39. During this academic year, 5 schools will be upgraded as Model Schools so as to ensure availability of all facilities on par with the Corporate schools. To inculcate the habit of plantations among the students community and to create awareness on the importance of clean environment, it is proposed to plant around 7,500 saplings in school campus in the current financial year. Maintenance of school buildings including adequate toilet, water facilities will be the priority of my Government. Teaching faculties will be recruited on contract basis to overcome shortage of teaching staff.

40. Under Foundation Literacy Numeracy (FLN) programme, it is proposed to increase reading and numeracy skills among students studying in class 1 to 5 as per the guidelines of National Institute for Proficiency in reading with Understanding Numeracy (NIPUN) programme at an estimated cost of ₹ 1.24 crore. two Smart class rooms in 100 schools are going to be established involving an expenditure of ₹ 2.40 crore during this year. For girls' empowerment and self defence training, an amount of ₹ 51.57 lakh will be spent this year. In order to support the students to bridge the learning gaps due to COVID-19 pandemic closure of schools, worksheets will be supplied to the students to engage them in Pedagogical activities. An amount of ₹ 1.10 crore is proposed to be spent under Information Communication Technology (ICT) and digital initiative.

41. An amount of ₹ 742.81 crore has been allocated for School Education in 2021-22.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

42. One of the most important source for a well organized society is education. Usually people with higher education have a better opportunity and enjoy a better standard of living. Keeping this in view, my Government will continue to focus on promotion of higher education in the Union Territory.

43. Providing financial assistance to the students who are pursuing professional courses will be continued and my Government has earmarked ₹ 40 crore under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme in B.E. 2021-22 and 9,214 students is expected to be benefitted through this scheme. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the establishment of a National School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) in Puducherry Union Territory at an estimate cost of ₹ 334.30 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Human Resources Development for approval. ₹ 20 crore has been allocated as State share under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for

implementation of various CSS schemes including construction of Yanam Engineering College. For implementation of 7th CPC recommendations for Government Polytechnics (PIPMATE) / Career Advancement Programme, ₹ 7 crore has been allocated this year. To create more awareness and to provide better chances for employment, a Career Orientation Cell will be created for the benefit of students.

44. An amount of ₹ 296.62 crore has been allocated for Higher and Technical Education in 2021-22.

ELECTRICITY

45. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, Union Territory of Puducherry has no short supply of power and my Government will ensure 24 x 7 power supply in all parts of our Union Territory. Many power projects / schemes are already in pipeline to further improve the transmission and distribution network

and reduce transmission losses. Solar Power project with 40% Central Financial Assistance to achieve 30 MW Roof Top Solar in residential sector will be implemented this year. Under Phase-II Programme of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Online portal has been developed for processing rooftop solar application for connectivity and disbursement of 40% subsidy (up to 3 KW) and 20% (from 3 KW – 10 KW). Expected capacity aggregation under this programme will be around 30 MW by 2022.

46. It is proposed to augment 5 Nos. of 10/16 MVA Power Transformers with 25 MVA Power Transformers at Villianur, Kalapet, Thirubhuvanai and Korkadu Sub-stations at an estimated cost of ₹ 2.03 crore.

47. The 10 MVA power transformer at Thethampakkam which is not presently working will be replaced and energised.

48. Smart city mission projects also pave way to implement certain power programmes so as to improve the power supply. Accordingly, replacement of existing Oil type 11 KV Distribution Transformers and allied Pillar boxes along the Grand Canal route with 26 compact Sub-station (CSS) and laying of allied under-ground Cable will be taken up this year at a cost of ₹ 10.22 crore. It is proposed to convert existing over-head lines into under-ground cable system at Vanarapet and Thengaithittu area along with replacement of 22 KV over head system with 11 KV UG Cable system at a total project cost of ₹ 8.55 crore.

49. Erection of 11 KV Switch Gears, Distribution Transformers, LT pillar boxes in Vambakeerapalayam, Vanarapet, Dr. Ambedkar Salai, part of Cuddalore Road and Thengaithittu area in addition to part of Petit Canal Street in connection with conversion of 22 KV OH feeders into 11 KV UG cable feeders, will be implemented at an estimated cost of ₹ 10.10 crore.

50. As the existing air insulated Sub-station at Marappalam was erected 25 years ago and it has already served its life period, new Gas Insulated System (GIS) Sub-station, which is a latest Technology, is proposed with an estimated cost of ₹ 26.25 crore in order to ensure reliable and quality power supply to the consumers.

51. My Government has proposed to introduce Pre-paid Smart Meters for the Consumers to improve the Billing and Collection Efficiency as per Government of India guidelines. It is proposed to implement Smart LED Street lighting System and Computerised Command and Management System (CCMS) for replacement of 33,870 street lights with LED street lights in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The operation and maintenance will be carried out for 7 years on Pay from Saving mode (ESCO).

52. Under capital infrastructure schemes, around ₹ 10.00 crore is proposed to be allocated for execution of the works like energization and

enhancement of 50 new distribution transformers of various ratings. Further, it is also proposed to erect 15 Kms. of HT lines and 50 Kms. of LT Lines and to strengthen 5 Kms. of existing HT lines and 15 Kms. of existing LT lines. Besides, it is also proposed to effect 10 Nos. of HT Industrial services, 50 Nos. of LT Industrial services, 40 Nos. of Agricultural pumpsets, 10,000 Nos. of Domestic Services, 1,500 Nos. of Commercial Services and 250 Nos. of new street lights. Under Cable Conversion works, it is proposed to lay 5 Kms. of HT and LT UG Cables and to convert 50 Nos. of LT over-head services into UG cable system.

FIRE SERVICE

53. It is proposed to set up a permanent Training Centre for fire service personnel with adequate manpower. New Fire Stations are proposed to be opened at Thavalakuppam, Karaiyambuthur, Lingareddipalayam and T.R. Pattinam this year. It is

also proposed to purchase of Foam Tenders to Villianur, Madukarai, Surakkudy, Mahe and Yanam fire stations. Purchase of wireless sets, computer, etc. for all Fire Stations is also proposed this year. Specialised Disaster Mitigation Crew will be formed with creation of adequate new posts. It is proposed to purchase 18 new Water Tenders replacing the condemned vehicles.

54. The construction of Fire Service Department Headquarters and a Fire Station at Puducherry will be expedited. The Bahour Fire Station will function in the newly constructed building from this year.

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

55. Hon'ble Members know that fisheries sector has a strategic role in food security and employment generation. Many welfare schemes / programmes for the welfare of fishermen are already in place and they will continue to be implemented more effectively. It is proposed to enhance the maximum permissible

limit of High Speed Diesel to the registered fishing crafts from 40,000 litres per annum to 45,000 litres to multiday fishing and from 36,000 litres per annum to 40,000 litres to daily fishing registered wooden / steel mechanized fishing boats respectively. Similarly, for registered FRP boats / Cattamaran / Vallam / Nava / Wooden Nava with diesel driven OBM / IBM, it is proposed to increase the allocation from 6,000 litres to 7,000 litres per annum and for traditional cattamaran / Nava fitted with OBM / IBM from 4,000 litres to 5,000 litres per annum. Increase in Ban Relief Assistance being given during lean season will be considered.

56. Immediate Death Relief of ₹ 5 lakh will be given to the legal heirs of the deceased fishers in the event of death during fishing activities. Old Age Pension will be given at the enhanced rate of ₹ 2,500 for the age group 50-59, ₹ 3,000 for the age group 60-79 and ₹ 4,000 for 80 years and above will be provided to 8,268 beneficiaries.

57. It is proposed to grant 50% subsidy @ ₹ 16,500 for purchase of FRP non-motorized cattamaran with nets to 300 fishers.

58. Reactivation charges being paid every year during ban period will be granted at an enhanced amount from ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 30,000 to 454 of Steel / Wooden Mechanized Boats and from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 20,000 to the FRP boats. 90% insurance subsidy on the annual premium paid by registered mechanized boat owners for insuring their boats against marine risks. It is proposed to grant 40% subsidy subject to a maximum of ₹ 24 lakh (unit cost ₹ 60 lakh) for purchase of wooden / steel / FRP mechanized boat of overall length between 16-24 metres and maximum allowable engine capacity of 240 HP. During the current financial year, it is proposed to cover 8 fishers with a financial implication of ₹ 1.92 crore.

59. Under the subsidy scheme for supply of fishery requisites, it is proposed to increase the subsidy from 50% to 60% for purchase of nets, floats, sinkers, nylon ropes etc.

60. 600 Meritorious fishermen students who studied in 10th and 12th standards will be awarded with enhanced amount of cash award from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 7,000 for X standard and from ₹ 7,000 to ₹ 15,000 for XII standard. It is proposed to reduce the qualifying marks from 75% to 70% from this year onwards.

61. Fisheries database will be created in the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare with the Technical Assistance of NIC, Puducherry for implementation of scheme in a time bound manner and easy access for the stakeholders. Information knowledge centres will be established in 15 fishermen villages of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions @ ₹ 5 lakh of unit for a total amount of ₹ 75 lakh. Department Library will be digitalised for the usage of fishermen students for upgradation of knowledge for competitive examinations with a cost of ₹ 15 lakh. An aquarium will be established in

Karaikal region at a cost of ₹ 15 lakh. Arrangement will be made to construct bait curve at Vaithikuppam fishing village, Puducherry on the lines of Tamilnadu.

62. Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, Government of India is extending 40% and 60% subsidy to General and Women / SC category beneficiaries respectively towards procurement of moped with icebox (unit cost - ₹ 0.75 lakh). The balance amount of 60% / 40% on the total cost of the unit will be borne by the Union Territory of Puducherry. Excess of the unit cost, if any, shall be borne by the beneficiaries.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

63. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the healthcare personnel who are rendering commendable service in controlling the spread of COVID-19 in our Union Territory. From the very beginning, COVID-19 pandemic has been a perplexing

and challenging medical mystery. The Hon'ble Members are well aware that the entire Government machinery is working hard to control the spread of the virus and we have largely succeeded in this task with the untiring service of all frontline workers. On behalf of this august House also, I once again express gratitude to the health personnel.

64. My Government has proposed to frame new rules for addressing the grievances of the People living with HIV – “Puducherry Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Deficiency Syndrome (Ombudsman and Legal Proceedings) Rules, 2020” in the ensuing year.

65. It is proposed to cover all sections of people in the four regions of Puducherry Union Territory under Universal Health Coverage Scheme with a view to providing better health care. Steps will be taken to fill up the vacancies as required, in Medical College, Dental College and other medical institutions.

Despite financial constraints, 10% increase in Grant-in-aid to all Government medical colleges / institutions have been made in the B.E. 2021-22 for ensuring smooth functioning of these institutions without financial stress.

66. A new 500 bed hospital for treatment of various epidemic infectious diseases will be constructed at Gorimedu, Puducherry.

67. In order to upgrade the infrastructure facilities in the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and PostGraduate Institute, Puducherry new equipments will be procured. Moreover, additional building infrastructure namely, construction of new OPD block and Registration centre at Government General Hospital at Karaikal (₹ 50 lakh), construction of new Community Health Centre building at Palloor, Mahe (₹ 50 lakh) will be taken up with loan assistance from HUDCO / NABARD. A sum of ₹ 25 crore has been additionally provided for tackling COVID-19 pandemic in the B.E. 2021-22.

68. The construction of AYUSH hospitals at Villianur and Yanam will be completed this year and will be opened for public use.

69. An amount of ₹ 795.88 crore has been allocated for Health department in 2021-22.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

70. It is proposed to conduct consecration of the temples that have not been renovated and consecrated for more than 12 years. Steps will be taken to digitize the information about all the idols, gold and silver ornaments and other movable properties of all temples and the same will be placed in public domain. It is further proposed to collect the details of immovable property of all the temples and guidelines will be issued to collect the fair rent from the tenants / lessee of the temple land / house / commercial building etc. so as to augment revenue resources of the temples.

71. Grant-in-aid to the extent of ₹ 2.76 crore is proposed to be disbursed to temples for undertaking renovation / repairing works this year. The mosques viz., (i) Jannathul Fridause Mosque, Ariyankuppam; (ii) Muhammadhia Pallivasal, Women Madarasa, Middle Street, Sulthanpet; (iii) Muhammadhia Pallivasal, Makthab Madarasa, Old Mettu Street, Sulthanpet will be given financial assistance to undertake renovation / repairing works. Annadhanam scheme will be extended to Sri Vedapureeswarar Sri Varadaraja Perumal Devasthanam in Puducherry.

72. The financial assistance being granted to non-purview temples for renovation and conservation will be enhanced to ₹ 3.50 lakh.

INDUSTRIES

73. The industrial sector is the backbone of economic development and creates employment opportunities to the youth. The Industries Department has been working hard to make Puducherry a preferred industrial investment destination through timely and hassle free Government clearance to new entrepreneurs.

74. Newly developed industrial plots by PIPDIC are available at Sedarapet in Puducherry, Polagam at Karaikal for the entrepreneurs to start industrial units. In order to motivate the new entrepreneurs this department is providing subsidy under the Scheme “Motivation of Entrepreneurs to start Industries and Fiscal Assistance to Industries”. In addition, wide range of services and support to the entrepreneurs and educated unemployed youth / artisans for setting up self-employed enterprises are also provided.

75. District Industries Centre plays a vital role in the areas of developing budding entrepreneurs and providing opportunities to the educated unemployed youths by imparting various training under Inplant / Advanced / High Skilled / Handicrafts / Coir training schemes. It also provides financial assistance with subsidy under Central / State sponsored Schemes viz. Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme

(PMEGP) and Motivation of unemployed persons to start self-employed enterprises scheme (MUPSES) for setting up of self-employment ventures. Through a system called Industrial Guidance Bureau (IGB), the needs of entrepreneurs such as obtaining permission / clearance / licence for setting up of new industries are taken care of.

76. Under “Ease of Doing Business”, it is proposed to further simplify the Online Single Window System. Further, it is proposed to introduce Ease of Doing Business (Service Delivery) Bill, 2021 during this financial year in order to ensure timely issue of permission / clearance for setting up of industries in the Union Territory of Puducherry. My Government has decided to stimulate export promotion by developing each district as an export hub. All the necessary support for boosting manufacturing of export items will be provided. An exclusive export policy will be announced shortly in this regard.

77. The Aspiring Puducherry – Innovation and Startup Policy for the Union Territory of Puducherry is aimed at building a conducive Startup ecosystem, providing financial and technical support to aspirants in a time bound manner. The Corpus fund of ₹ 10.00 crore as Puducherry Startup Fund will be mobilised to provide Infrastructure support like Workstation, Web portal, Mobile App, Cloud Services, Laboratory facilities, testing, marketing facility as required by the Startups.

78. The Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council has been set up in this department as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India. The main objective of the Council is to take action for settlement of the delayed payment between the Micro and Small Enterprises and buyers.

79. The industrial investors conference will be held on 23rd and 24th September in order to attract investments in Puducherry.

LABOUR

80. My Government is keen on promoting labour welfare activities both in organised and unorganised sector by taking appropriate initiatives in this direction. Accordingly, it is proposed to extend the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana (PMSYM) to the workers in the age group of 18 to 40 years who are enrolled in Puducherry Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board for enabling them to get a fixed pension of ₹ 3,000 on attaining the age of 60 years. It is also proposed to extend Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) for coverage of ₹ 5 lakh per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals to the construction workers. A model technical training centre will be started at Mettupalayam with the assistance from Government of India.

81. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, skill development programmes of Government provides adequate training in market relevant skills and create

opportunities for employment. Keeping this in view, skill training to youths in artisan, tourism and hospitality sector, building construction, sustainable fishing and safety training, boat repair, aquaculture and sea-food processing etc. will be given under Pradhan Matri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

82. As the Hon'ble Members are well aware, rapid urbanisation and population growth are the major contributors for generation of huge solid waste. Therefore, new technologies are required to be adopted for proper solid waste management.

83. It is proposed to bring Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) projects and Construction and Demolition waste projects at a suitable location as per the environmental regulation so that the garbage disposal issue will be settled once for all and the Union Territory of Puducherry will be free from these environmental hazard.

84. Under Smart City Programme, construction of 220 dwelling units consisting of 6 Blocks (G+4) at a cost of ₹ 18.03 crore at Chinnayapuram will commence this year. In order to tackle water inundation during rainy season, the works relating to improvement of primary storm water drains through construction of culvert opposite to Housing Board, RCC Box culvert for Mettuvaikkal at Gundu Salai and NH Road junction in Ellapillaichavady, lining on both sides of Uppar Drain between Kamaraj Salai junction and Vanarapet foot bridge, construction of PCC drain for the Mettuvaikkal and construction of three culverts across Mettuvaikkal at a cost of ₹ 26.42 crore will be completed this year. Many works have already commenced and the remaining works will commence shortly.

85. The prestigious Calve College which is a symbol of French Culture will be renovated at a cost of ₹ 4.39 crore without changing its traditional architectural design. Similarly, V.O.C. Higher Secondary

School and Penshanet School will be renovated at a cost of ₹ 5.85 crore and ₹ 5.51 crore respectively.

86. As part of traffic management measures, parking facilities in the heart of the city will be created to avoid congestion. Suitable places have already been identified to construct Multi-Level Car parking facility with an estimated cost of ₹ 20 crore at two sites *i.e.*, Old Jail Complex and Old Port area and the work will be started in this financial year. Conversion of Two Electrical Pole Structure transformers into Compact Sub-station at a cost of ₹ 33.45 crore will also be undertaken this year.

87. The “Jal Jeevan Mission” to provide quality and adequate clean drinking water to all rural households through tap connection has been given thrust providing tap connection to all the rural households. Now, new houses will also be provided connection before the close of the current financial year. Conversion of all street lights into LED lights in smart city area through SMART City projects will be completed this year.

POLICE

88. Hon'ble Members are well aware that Puducherry Police is highly professional, committed and continue to render commendable service because of which the Union Territory of Puducherry remains largely peaceful. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the police personnel for their active and dedicated participation as frontline workers in the battle against the deadly corona virus in our Union Territory.

89. My Government is keen on improving police infrastructure for better enforcement of law and order. Keeping this in view, additional budgetary allocation has been made this year for construction of Police Stations at Lawspet, Reddiarpalayam, Police Out post at Karikalampakkam and renovation of police quarters etc. to the tune of ₹ 15 crore in B.E. 2021-22. Similarly, ₹ 12 crore has been provided for various

items of expenditure like installation of CCTV camera (₹ 2 crore), purchase of new vehicles (₹ 4 crore) and purchase of arms and ammunitions (₹ 1 crore), supply of computers, photocopiers etc. for Police Department and Police Stations (₹ 1 crore). I am happy to announce in this august House that my Government has decided to implement the grant of uniform allowance for police personnel for which ₹ 7.50 crore has been provided in the budget.

90. To prevent Cyber Crimes against Women and Children, Cyber tools will be procured. Installation of ERSS (Emergency Response Support System) Centres in the Union Territory of Puducherry will be completed early for effective communication. Recruitment of police personnel against vacant posts will be completed this year.

91. An amount of ₹ 303.85 crore has been allocated to Police Department in 2021-22.

PORT

92. Puducherry Port has a lot of potential to handle commercial cargo operations and stimulate economic growth. My Government is keen on revival of commercial cargo handling operation at Puducherry Port in association with Chennai Port trust and all possible efforts will be taken to implement this project this year. Construction of Barrier between drainage channel and navigational channel under “Sagarmala” will be undertaken this year. It is proposed to develop Old Port area as an Urban Entertainment village with multilevel car parking funded through Smart City. A Master plan for development of Old Port and New Port area will be prepared and further follow up action taken.

PUBLIC WORKS

93. As Hon’ble Members are well aware, infrastructure development is important for sustained economic growth. It is satisfying to note that all the

urban and rural areas of the Union Territory of Puducherry is being provided with protected water supply and are connected with proper roads. In order to further augment water supply, new water supply works in Puducherry region and Karaikal region at an estimated cost of ₹ 38.42 crore and ₹ 14.50 crore respectively will be taken up this year.

94. Under building programme, construction of additional blocks / class-rooms in Bharathidasan Government College, Government High School at Thirukanur, Jeevanantham Government Higher Secondary School at Karamanikuppam and 3 storied building for Lawspet Police Station will be carried out at an estimated cost of ₹ 16 crore. Improvement of the PHC, Ambagarathur in Karaikal and construction of OPD block at CHC, Thenoor will be taken up at an estimated cost of ₹ 2.17 crore this year.

95. 13 Major works at a cost of ₹ 133.51 crore are to be taken up under Roads and Bridges sector which includes (i) construction of 'L' / 'U' drains in

Lawspet area, (ii) laying / improvements of roads at Madagadipet, (iii) widening the existing lane of Puducherry-Villianur Road NH45A including a new High Level Bridge across Sankaraparani River at Ariyapalayam, (iv) improvements to road from Kirumampakkam to Vambupet RC-21 and, (v) reconstruction of existing single lane bridge as double lane bridge at Embalam-Karikalampakkam.

96. New building for CHC, Palloor, Coastal Police Station, VIP Suite and Additional Guest House are proposed to be constructed at Mahe region at a cost of ₹ 19.65 crore this year.

97. Construction of Hostel for Sports Authority of India and ANM School will be taken up in Yanam region at a cost of ₹ 7.41 crore. Under Khelo India Scheme, swimming pool of Olympic Standards to the tune of ₹ 5 crore is under construction in Puducherry and will be completed this year. Further, 400 Mts. track, Volley-Ball Court and Foot-Ball Court are proposed to be constructed in Yanam to the tune of ₹ 4.02 crore.

98. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Scheme, laying of roads of international standard for a length of 60.255 Km. in Puducherry region at a cost of ₹ 29.97 crore, and 10.41 Km. length in Karaikal region at a cost of ₹ 3.75 crore will be taken up this year. A new Bus Stand in Bahour will be constructed at a cost of ₹ 2 crore.

99. In Karaikal region, improvements to the four Car Street in Thirunallar are in progress at a cost of ₹ 4 crore. Improvements to various roads in Karaikal at a cost of ₹ 19.20 crore and construction of Arasalar Bridge at Athipadugai will be taken up this year at an estimated cost of ₹ 4.50 crore.

100. In Mahe Region, 2 works *i.e.*, construction of new bridge over Mahe river and Regulator-*cum*-bridge from Manjakkal to Kallayi will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 38 crore. French Channel Road work will be carried out at a cost of ₹ 2 crore in Yanam region.

101. Construction of fish landing centres at a total cost of ₹ 50 crore are going to be taken up at Arikkamedu, Nallavadu and Periyakalapet in Puducherry region. Development of Fishing Harbour in Karaikal will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 52.90 crore this year.

102. Improvements to various irrigation works in Puducherry and Karaikal region will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 53.23 crore and ₹ 23.73 crore respectively.

REVENUE

103. The Hon'ble Members are aware that the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management has been playing a crucial role in tackling the deadly Corona virus in our Union Territory and all the Revenue department officials deserve appreciation for their active involvement in this noble task. I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to all the Revenue personnel engaged in this difficult task.

My Government has carried out frequent review of the pandemic situation and take appropriate decisions then and there to contain the spread of the virus.

104. In order to strengthen the Disaster Management Force in the Union Territory of Puducherry, training will be imparted to 500 community volunteers under the Aapda Mitra (Training to Community Volunteers) in disaster response. Civil Defence Volunteers setup shall also be activated as required under the instruction of the Central Government. In order to reduce the delay in issue of patta transfer, my Government has proposed to introduce automatic online patta transfer soon for which necessary software will be developed by National Informatics Centre of Puducherry. This will be integrated with registration system.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

105. The Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Puducherry has initiated works on implementing the Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Plan for the Union Territory of Puducherry under the World Bank assisted “Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency” (ENCORE) project under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The objectives of the projects to be implemented under ENCORE will be as follows:-

- (i) To ensure livelihood security to fishermen communities and other local communities living in coastal areas.
- (ii) To conserve and protect coastal stretches, its unique environment, biodiversity and its marine area.
- (iii) To promote development in a sustainable manner based on scientific principles taking into account the dangers of natural hazards in the coastal areas, sea level rises due to global warming etc.

106. A dedicated project management unit namely “Puducherry Integrated Coastal Zone Management Society (PICZMS)” has been established in the

Department of Science, Technology and Environment, for coordinating the ENCORE projects. The project is designed to be implemented at an estimated cost of ₹ 111.90 crore, with 50% World Bank Assistance (₹ 55.95 crore), 40% Central assistance (₹ 44.76 crore) and with 10% share (₹ 11.19 crore) of the Government of Puducherry. The project is expected to take off this year.

107. Various measures are being taken to phase out Single Use Plastic in the Union Territory of Puducherry. As a part of this, Bahour Commune will be declared as Single Use Plastic Free Model Commune on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

108. Under the “Slum Up-gradation Programme”, construction of ‘L’ drain as well as laying of cement concrete pavement at Nesavalar Nagar, Lawspet will be taken up at an estimated cost of ₹ 53.30 lakh. Construction of side drains with protection wall and

improvements to the existing side drains will be started at an estimated cost of ₹ 44.25 lakh in Yanam region at Guriampeta.

109. ₹ 7.27 crore will be disbursed as 2nd and 3rd instalment of financial assistance to 821 beneficiaries for completing their houses in Puducherry and Karaikal region under the “Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Centenary Housing Scheme (Phase-VI)”. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Scheme, 3,800 houses are at various stages of construction and priority will be given to complete the approved houses so that the mission objective of Housing for All by 2022 is achieved in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

110. It is proposed to combine the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Centenary Housing Scheme and Prime Minister Awas Yojana Scheme and financial assistance with a maximum of ₹ 3.50 lakh will be given to the beneficiaries who are already constructing houses and also to the new beneficiaries.

111. The title deeds/documents will be returned to the persons concerned who availed loan under Kamarajar Housing Scheme but not being able to construct the house if they repay the principal amount of loan. In the case of those who availed loan but have not yet started construction work will be given back the documents if they pay the principal along with interest as may be fixed by the Government.

112. In order to streamline the construction of unauthorized buildings as well as the buildings constructed in deviation of the approved plan / norms, my Government has proposed to resolve the issue through one time regularization by making necessary amendments in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1969, Town and Country Planning Rules, 1975 and the Building Bye-laws and Zoning Regulations. The Puducherry Planning Authority will be strengthened with adequate manpower for more effective town and country planning activities.

TOURISM

113. Puducherry Union Territory is well known for its beaches, renowned religious places, handicrafts, backwaters, heritage buildings etc. There has been a steady increase in arrival of tourists to Puducherry from within the country as well as from abroad. Weekend stay in Puducherry is the most sought after one by tourists from neighbouring States.

114. Murungapakkam area is becoming an important Tourism Hub and my Government is taking necessary steps for creating more tourism infrastructure near Art and Craft Village, Murungapakkam. Projects relating to development of Arikamedu Museum and Interpretation Centre, Franco Tamil Village, Heritage Village adjacent to Franco Tamil Village are nearing completion. All the newly created tourism infrastructures will be maintained through outsourcing.

115. As already stated Puducherry sees heavy tourist flow in weekend, tourism infrastructure will be further strengthened to transform Puducherry from

week-end to week-long destination. The construction works in respect of Cultural Complex-*cum*-Convention Centre at Old distilleries site, and renovation of old Godowns at Port area meant for promoting Business / MICE (Meeting, Incentives, Conferencing, Exhibitions) Tourism are nearing completion. This is likely to attract more business tourism to Puducherry paving way for the economic development of the Union Territory.

116. To create a standard platform for private investment, Tourism Trade Act will be framed. Specific guidelines for registration of Home Stays, Bed and Breakfast scheme have been introduced. Further, a Mobile App, Online Tourist Information System have been developed for the benefit of Tourists. Various theme based tours like e-Bike Tour, Heritage Tour, Spiritual Tour, Eco Tour, Adventure Tour, Beaches of Puducherry, Boutiques of Boulevard, Culinary of Boulevard, Beyond Puducherry (covering outlying Regions) will be organised through private participation.

In addition to regular events and festivals, Adventure Sports Carnival, Food Festival and Beach Festival will also be organized duly following COVID-19 norms. Water sports will be promoted.

117. The development works relating to Spiritual Park at Thirunallar is almost nearing completion. Renovation work at the Government Tourist Home at Kovilpathu will be taken up and additional rooms constructed for the benefit of pilgrims this year. Karaikal beach will be given a facelift by undertaking necessary new developmental works. Development of Recreational Park around Yanam Tower will be completed and Phase-II of the work taken up subsequently. Private Water Sports Operators have evinced interest in operating boating / house boats in River Mayyazhi, Mahe. The Government will consider this and appropriate decision will be taken.

118. The development of Yacht Marina in Puducherry and development of entertainment zone in Manapet will be given priority under the technical expertise of NITI Aayog. A suitable land required for implementing

the project 'Yacht Marina' will be identified and the project expedited in this year. To encourage private investors / entrepreneurs and to create employment to youths in tourism related business, all possible action will be taken to provide "Industrial Status" to Tourism Sector in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

TRANSPORT

119. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected the transport sector also. However, with the gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, the transport sector is almost limping back to normalcy. A Vehicle Tracking Monitoring Centre will be set up in the Transport Department Office at an estimated cost of ₹ 4.60 crore under the Nirbhaya Framework for Safety and Security of women this year. In order to ensure the smooth functioning of Puducherry Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) ₹ 25.85 crore has been allocated in B.E. 2021-22, despite financial constraints.

ADI DRAVIDAR AND SCHEDULED TRIBES WELFARE

120. I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members of this august House that the programmes and policies of my Government will be designed to focus on the development and welfare of the individuals particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized communities. The Government have taken numerous steps over the years to ensure rapid socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in our Union Territory. Distinct target oriented programmes for SC/ST are in place by earmarking funds, making provision of subsidies, making reservations in employment opportunities etc.

121. My Government has proposed to enhance financial assistance to the parents of poor SC bride for performing marriage of their children from ₹ 75,000 to ₹ 1,00,000. My Government has also proposed to establish a new Adi Dravidar Welfare Sub-office at Villianur, which is the central point connecting almost all the rural areas of Puducherry

region for availing the benefits under various schemes by the SC / ST community hailing in rural areas. It is proposed to construct Hostel for Scheduled Tribe students in this financial year. The educational assistance scheme for SC / ST for providing free education right from 1st standard to college level will be implemented effectively from this year. The education loan availed by the students through PADCO will be waived.

122. An amount of ₹ 396 crore has been earmarked under SCP component this year.

123. A sum of ₹ 165.44 crore has been allocated to the AD Welfare Department in 2021-22.

BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES WELFARE

124. Successive Governments continue to implement various welfare schemes for socio-economic development of backward classes and minorities in the Union Territory of Puducherry and all the existing

schemes will be continued by my Government also. Hostel facilities and other benefits like scholarship, micro finance facility and educational loan are provided to backward classes and minorities students. My Government has proposed a new Residential School for OBC students at Korkadu revenue village, Puducherry and to start a new hostel for OBC girls' students at Embalam for the benefit of OBC students.

SOCIAL WELFARE

125. The Government will continue to implement all the existing welfare schemes meant for the differently abled persons *viz*, free bus passes, educational assistance, marriage assistance, pre-matric and post-matric scholarship, fuel subsidy, motorised tri-cycles, transport allowance, *ex-gratia* to the kith and kin for performing funeral rites, etc. Similarly, Grant-in-aid to non-Governmental organisations for providing support to women and children in need of care and protection, differently abled, mentally challenged, aged and vulnerable persons will be provided.

126. A Day Care-*cum*-Recreation Centre is proposed to be established in Villianur for senior citizens in this financial year, similar to the ones already functioning at Ariankuppam and Karaikal.

127. In pursuance of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, the Government of Puducherry has notified the Puducherry Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Rules, 2017. The Pondicherry Society for the Care of Aged (PONCARE) has engaged a retired judge, as Free Legal Advisor to the senior citizens, who are in need of legal assistance for consultation, on every Wednesday from 3.30 p.m. to 5.45 p.m. in the premises of PONCARE.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

128. It is the primary responsibility of any Government to improve the social, economical, health and nutritional status of Women and Children for an integrated

development of a nation. My Government will continue to implement the existing welfare schemes / benefits meant for women and children and explore the possibilities of further spending on improving the economic condition of women, especially the rural women. The Central scheme of “One Stop Centre” envisages providing integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence of any kind. 3 new “One Stop Center” each one at Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam region will be constructed this year. Land for construction of “One Stop Centre” has been identified in Karaikal and Yanam regions. The construction work at Karaikal District has already been started and will be completed soon. Action has been initiated for transfer of land for construction of “One Stop Centre” in Yanam region and construction will be completed in this year itself.

129. “181 Women Helpline” is intended to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence through referral (linking

with appropriate authority) and to provide information about the schemes / programs across the country meant for the welfare of women through a single uniform number. With the financial assistance from Central Government, Women Help Line (WHL) will be established in Puducherry to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, under one roof.

130. For improving the nutritional status and to reduce the malnutrition among children, additional two eggs will be provided in a week to the children registered in the Anganwadi centres under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. Additional supplementary nutrition will be provided to the malnourished children in the Anganwadi centres. Prenatal Nutritional Kit and Postnatal Hygienic Kit worth ₹ 4,000 and ₹ 1,000 respectively will be supplied to the pregnant and lactating mothers enrolled in the Anganwadi Centres under ICDS scheme, this year.

131. A sum of ₹ 562.80 crore has been allocated for the Department of Women and Child Development in 2021-22.

132. I would like to conclude with an assurance that ours is a Government that listens to the voices of the people and responds pro-actively. I have sincerely attempted in this budget to give priority for poverty reduction, health, education, housing for the poor, water resources management in irrigation, socio-economic development of SC / ST, fishermen, women and children, despite resource constraints. As already discussed, more allocation to police infrastructure has been made for strengthening the police force, to prevent crimes and ensure a peaceful Puducherry.

133. I am pleased to announce that the VAT on petrol in Puducherry and Karaikal regions will be immediately reduced by 3% for the benefit of public in view of the impact of the prevailing petrol price hike. This will reduce the price by ₹ 2.43 per litre.

134. There are many farmers who are unable to repay their crop loans to the Co-operative banks. In view of this, the loan amount of the farmers who have availed crop loans through Co-operative banks and are in arrears will be waived.

135. In view of the hardship being faced by the employees / workers of various Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Bodies and Co-operative Societies which are operating at a loss, arrangements will be made to pay them two months salary arrears immediately.

136. Though there is economic slowdown at present due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Territory's economy is expected to gain momentum in the coming months. While preparing the budget for 2021-22, my Government has ensured debt sustainability and adhered to the FRBM fiscal parameters for maintaining fiscal discipline. At the same time, my Government has ensured sufficient allocation to

on-going welfare schemes intended for the poor and vulnerable sections of the society besides introducing certain new welfare measures.

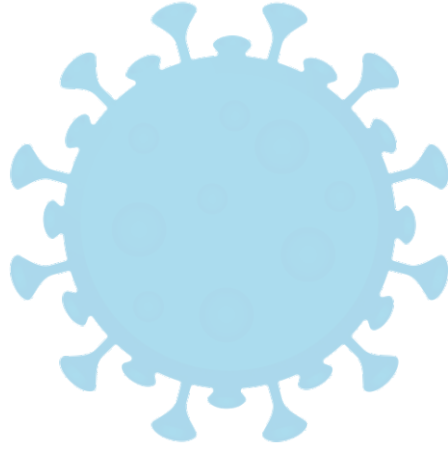
137. My Government will continue to take concerted efforts for faster economic recovery which will pave the way for enhancing Union Territory fiscal position and improve the fiscal consolidation.

138. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with this presentation, I commend the Budget for the year 2021-22 before this House, and solicit the support of the Hon'ble Members in this regard.

VAZHGA BHARATHAM !

VELGA PUDUCHERRY !

NANDRI ! VANAkkAM !



*Get Vaccinated !
Beat the Corona !!*