



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

# BUDGET SPEECH

2018 - 2019

Thiru **V. NARAYANASAMY**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister



2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018

**BUDGET SPEECH**

**2018 - 2019**

**He is the light of kings who has there four things,  
beneficence, benevolence, rectitude, and care for  
his people.**

— Kural

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

**I** rise to present the budget for the year 2018-19 before this august House. Hon'ble Members of this House are being supplied copies of Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2018-19. I am happy indeed to proudly say that with the active support of the people of Puducherry and with the guidance and blessings of our beloved leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi, and Respected Shri. Raghul Gandhi, President of All India National Congress, Muthamizh Viththagar Dr. Kalaignar and DMK Working President Respectable Thiru Stalin, my Government has been implementing the welfare schemes announced in the last budget for the benefit of the poor and I assure that my Government will continue to implement all the welfare schemes for the betterment of weaker sections of the society.

2. Hon'ble Members are aware that the total budget outlay as approved by the State Planning Board for the year 2018-19 is ₹ 7,530 crore. The Union Territory's own resources for the current year is estimated as ₹ 4,570 crore (61%) and the Central Assistance from Government of India will be ₹ 1,476 crore (25%). The anticipated grants for Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) is estimated as ₹ 409 crore. The remaining ₹ 1050 crore (14%) will be met from Open Market Borrowings and loans from Central Financial Institutions. The Government of India has abolished the Plan and Non-plan distinction of expenditure and classified the expenditure as Capital and Revenue. Accordingly, the Government of Puducherry has also reclassified the expenditure pattern as Capital and Revenue and the same is operational from 1-4-2018.

3. Hon'ble Members are aware that a major portion of our financial resources goes to meeting the committed expenditure of salaries, pension, loan and interest payments and power purchase. Out of the budget estimate of ₹ 7,530 crore, for the year 2018-19, ₹ 1,800 crore is allocated for salaries (24%), ₹ 875 crore for pensions (12%) and

₹ 1,380 crore for debt servicing (18%) *i.e.* repayment of loan and payment of interest, and ₹ 1,200 crore for power purchase (16%). Other committed expenditure of the Government are Old Age Pension and other welfare schemes of ₹ 540 crore (7%), Grant-in-aid (Salaries and General) to Public Sector Undertakings and Co-operative Institutions to the extent of ₹ 762 crore (10%).

4. During the year 2017-18, the expenditure incurred was ₹ 6,757 crore which is 95% of the revenue target. The expenditure on CSS was 82% which is the highest ever spending on CSS in the history of Puducherry. The revenue growth in 2017-18 as compared to the previous year was ₹ 505 crore (14%).

5. I take this opportunity to share with the Hon'ble Members the current fiscal situation of the Union Territory of Puducherry. After creation of separate Public Account of Puducherry w.e.f. 17-12-2007, the Government of India dispensed with the grant of Plan loans and the Government of Puducherry has been permitted to avail

loan through Open Market Borrowings and from Central Financial Institutions like HUDCO, NABARD, etc., for funding Plan schemes. At the time of creation of Public Account in December 2007, there was an outstanding loan of ₹ 2,177 crore given by Government of India to the Government of Puducherry. As this is found to be a huge debt obligation, the Government of Puducherry has been persistently requesting the Government of India for waiver of the said legacy loan of ₹ 2,177 crore.

6. After my Government took over in August 2016, I have been making best efforts for getting the legacy loan waived and to secure more grants from Government of India for meeting the expenditure on implementation of 7th Pay Commission recommendations for the Government servant of Union Territory of Puducherry to the tune of ₹ 1,050 crore. My Government is also continuously urging the Government of India to include the Union Territory of Puducherry under the ambit of 15th Finance Commission. The Government has also requested to provide additional funds to meet the Non-plan expenditure gap, reimbursement

of retirement benefits of the retired employees of Government of Puducherry as is done in the case of Government of NCT of Delhi. I have reiterated these demands in the Chief Ministers' Conference held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister organised by the NITI Aayog. No reply has been received from the Government of India so far. Against this background, my Government has been making sincere efforts to continue all welfare schemes with the available resources.

7. There are 12 Public Sector Undertakings functioning under the Government of Puducherry. Except Pondicherry Distilleries Limited and Pondicherry Power Corporation Limited, the rest of the Public Sector Undertakings are running loss due to various reasons. The accumulated loss incurred by these companies runs to about ₹ 600 crore. Anglo French Textiles Corporation Limited (AFT), Swadeshi Bharathi Cotton Mill, SPINCO, Jayaprakash Narayan Co-operative Spinning Mill, Karaikal are among the loss-making units. Hon'ble Members are aware that my Government has appointed a single member committee headed by Thiru Vijayan, I.A.S (Rtd.) to study the viability and other

aspects, and to suggest remedial measures to improve the performance of these PSUs. So far the performance report of 4 PSUs has been submitted and the same is under consideration of the Government. All the aspects will be examined and appropriate action taken early.

8. Hon'ble Members are aware that the Union Territory of Puducherry has paid ₹ 337 crore in full settlement of Open Market Borrowing (OMB) availed in the year 2007-08 through RBI despite financial constraints, in order to ensure creditworthiness of the Union Territory of Puducherry. Similarly, ₹ 350 crore of OMB is to be paid in this year (2018-19) also, and my Government will take all necessary action to honour this debt obligation at the time of maturity. The debt obligation including payment of interest and repayment of loans including that of HUDCO, NABARD, etc., in 2018-19 alone works out to ₹ 1,380 crore which is 18% of the estimated expenditure for 2018-19. The total outstanding debt obligations of the Government of Puducherry including the loan taken from the financial year 2007-08 to 2017-18 stands at ₹ 7,730 crore which is 25% of GSDP. The *per capita* income of Union Territory of Puducherry

is ₹ 1,95,000. The growth rate of GSDP of Union Territory of Puducherry in the year 2017-2018 was 11.4%, whereas the GSDP growth rate of Government of India was 7% only. GSDP of Puducherry is relatively higher than that of National GDP.

9. With this preamble, I shall present department-wise proposals for 2018-19.

## **AGRICULTURE**

10. Agriculture is considered to be the backbone of rural economy. My Government has been giving priority to the welfare and progress of farming community. Keeping this in view, the Department of Agriculture will be renamed as "Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare". My Government has prepared a strategic Action plan to increase the green fodder production in the Union Territory of Puducherry by involving all departments and other institutions. A target of 364 hectares under green fodder cultivation has been fixed this year so as to overcome fodder shortage.

11. The Government has come forward to implement the "Income Guarantee Scheme" for the empowerment of rural women. Under this scheme, "Bee keeping" will be extended to all the villages under the "Bee and Me" scheme through the Women Self Help Groups. Equipments for bee keeping will be provided at 40% subsidy besides availing bank loans after imparting training. In order to sell their products, arrangements will be made for procurement of honey and bye-products through various organizations including Khadi and Village Industries Board. With a view to promote fodder production, the back ended subsidy presently being extended will be enhanced from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 8,000 per acre. Action will be taken for procurement of the fodder produced by the farmers through Co-operative Institutions.

12. Back ended subsidy of ₹ 750 will be extended to promote Azolla cultivation for 1,500 Nos. of farm women for increasing the milk production. It is proposed to extend 4% of interest subvention to the farmers in addition to 3% interest subvention already being given by Government of India for prompt and regular payment of crop loans obtained from Co-operative Banks so that the farmers will be able to avail interest free loans.

13. With the objective of area expansion and productivity in rice fallow pulses and oil seeds in Karaikal region under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Targetted Rice Fallow Areas", it is proposed to extend ₹ 5 lakh per village to the tune of ₹ 1 crore for 20 villages towards the conduct of demonstrations, issue of inputs like certified seeds, micro nutrients, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, irrigation equipments, sprinklers etc.

14. It is also proposed to extend back-ended subsidy at ₹ 10,000 per hectare to the farmers for cultivation of millets such as Maize, Ragi, Kuthiraivali, Thina, Samai, Varagu etc., during Kuruvai/Sornavari seasons *in lieu of* paddy in order to avoid over exploitation of ground water and encourage economic use of water.

15. Under the "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana" (PKVY) scheme, it is proposed to promote organic farming on a cluster approach in an area of 400 acres *viz.*, 6 clusters in Puducherry and 2 in Karaikal each cluster of 50 acres. A subsidy of ₹ 12,500 per hectare will be given for compensating the yield loss and to adopt organic

farming technology. It is proposed to distribute country cows to organic farmers to motivate organic farming. Organic Farming Certification Scheme will be implemented to encourage organic farming under participatory guarantee scheme.

16. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Mission for Agricultural Extension and Technology" (NMAET), it is proposed to create test facilities involving an amount of ₹ 12 lakh for assessment of genetic purity of seeds at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture (PAJANCOA), Karaikal. State Seed Testing Laboratory in Puducherry will be strengthened at a cost of ₹ 17 lakh with the central assistance. Under Soil Health Card scheme, Soil Health Card will be given to all the farmers to ascertain the quality of their land, in association with Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. Now, on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Cauvery Management Authority has been constituted by the Government of India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has upheld the right of Karaikal farmers for sharing of Cauvery water for Kuruvai and Samba cultivation. The Government of India, in its draft scheme for constitution of Cauvery Management Authority had submitted that it

would be the final authority to decide on any issues on sharing of Cauvery water. But the Hon'ble Supreme Court accepted the arguments put forth by the Government of Puducherry that the Cauvery Management Authority alone should be competent to take all decisions, and appreciated the stand of the Government of Puducherry and ordered accordingly. The lawyers who represented Government of Puducherry were appreciated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. I hope that the suffering of farmers of Karaikal region on account of water scarcity would be mitigated to a larger extent consequent on the Supreme Court Judgement. It is proposed to establish an "University for Agricultural Sciences" covering the PAJANCOA, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER) and the Krishi Vigyan Kendra functioning in the Union Territory of Puducherry. It is proposed to reward the farmers consuming less power and less ground water. Puducherry State Ground Water Authority will be upgraded for better management of ground water. Welfare schemes for farmers will be implemented through "Agricultural Labourers Welfare Board". Farmers harvesting high yields will be given awards and cash rewards suitably.

## **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

17. In order to reduce the cost of rearing of milch animals and cross bred female calves and to enhance milk production, cattle feed and calf feed will be provided to all milk producers at 75% subsidy. It is proposed to extend 25% subsidy to women and members of women self-help groups for procurement of about 6,000 milch animals to improve the livelihood of women and to improve milk production. During the current year, the target for Milk Production will be 49,000 Metric Tons, Egg Production 113.70 lakh and Meat Production 14,622 Metric Tons. Action will be taken to declare Union Territory of Puducherry as Foot and Mouth Disease free zone for Bovines and PPR free zone for sheep and goat. 24 hours Veterinary Emergency Units, with fully equipped two wheelers, will be started this year in all four regions of Puducherry. Sex sorted semen technology will be implemented for producing high quality female calves. Embryo transfer technology will be modified and introduced in Union Territory of Puducherry. Rabies diagnosis laboratory will be established in RIVER.

18. In order to meet the increased demand on Animal Health Care Services in the rural areas of Puducherry, two vehicles will be purchased for the Mobile Veterinary dispensaries to extend animal health services at farmers' doorstep, during this year. Government Poultry Farms at Kariamanickam and Kottucherry will be rehabilitated and renovated. To provide better treatment to animals, it is proposed to purchase 2 new Portable X-Ray machines, each one for Puducherry and Karaikal Region and 17 portable ultrasound Scanner machines to all the Veterinary Dispensaries. Technical Skill oriented training for a period ranging from 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. Loan facility will be made available through Nationalised Banks/NABARD under Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG) scheme (CSS). Action will be taken to introduce additional classes in Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER).

## **ART AND CULTURE**

19. It is proposed to construct Tagore Cultural Complex in Puducherry and Yanam regions and to establish a

sub-centre for South Zone Cultural Centre at Puducherry. With the central assistance, a Cultural Hall is proposed to be constructed in Bharathiyar Palkalaikoodam at Ariyankuppam Constituency at a cost of ₹ 9 crore. 700 Indigent artists living Below Poverty Line will be identified and provided financial assistance. During this year, 21 artists will be conferred "Kalaimamani Awards" and 16 eminent literary personalities will be awarded "Tholkappiar Awards" and 10 eminent literary personalities will be conferred with "Kamban Pugazh Literary Award" and 8 literary personalities "Nehru Children Literary Award".

## **CIVIL SUPPLIES**

20. Hon'ble Members are well aware that with a view to providing food security to all under the Universal Public Distribution System from September, 2015 onwards, the Union Territory Government has implemented Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) in all the four regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry. Cash subsidy is being directly credited to 27,000 Family Ration Card holders beneficiaries Bank Account of

poorest of the poor under "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" (AAY) scheme @ ₹ 933.10 per card for 35 kg. of rice, and for about 1,51,000 card holders of Below Poverty Line (BPL) card holders @ ₹ 133.30 for 5 kg. of rice per member. My Government has requested the Government of India to provide rice instead of cash subsidy through DBT in order to remove the difficulties being faced by the poor in getting rice. The Government of India has given in-principle approval for the same. My Government will take necessary action to procure paddy from the farmers directly through Civil Supplies Department in order to implement the free rice scheme.

21. As a measure of streamlining the implementation of Public Distribution System, Biometric based Smart Ration Card (SRC) was introduced in 2011. As the chip embedded in the SRC has become obsolete and insufficient to include more than two members, of a family, my Government has decided to migrate from the SRC based PDS solution to the Aadhaar based PDS solutions so as to enable all the members of the family to avail PDS items in the FPS after Biometric authentication. The present distribution of

20 kg. of Rice at free of cost to BPL / AAY card holders and 10 kg. of free rice to APL card holders will be continued every month. A provision of ₹ 140 crore has been made in the budget for this purpose. Additional funds required for this scheme will be provided in the Revised Estimate 2018-19.

## **CO-OPERATION**

22. The main objectives of co-operative movement is to eliminate middlemen in trade and commerce, so as to prevent the exploitation of the weaker section of the society and to protect the rights of people both as producers and consumers. The interest subsidy will be raised from 5% to 6% to SC members and from 4 % to 5% to other members of Primary Co-operative Housing Societies who regularly repay the loan without default. In order to meet the growing need for storage facilities for paddy, steel silos will be set-up in the Pondicherry Central Co-operative Processing Supply and Marketing Society. To strengthen the Handloom sector, my Government proposes to install

200 Nos. of pedal looms in Puducherry and Mahe region in 12 Weavers' Co-operative Societies with the expectation of achieving atleast ₹ 1 crore as financial target. To support the Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies, it is proposed to provide subsidy to the extent of 50% of wages paid for handloom weaving, and 50% of value of yarn purchased for readily marketable handloom products. New management committees will be formed in all co-operative societies. In order to ensure timely settlement of dues on Tractor hire charges subsidy, a Corpus Fund of ₹ 50 lakh will be created. More selling agents will be engaged by PONLAIT to increase its share in milk and milk products. Necessary support will be provided to PONLAIT to expand its capacity to handle additional milk procured from farmers. As part of the above initiative, a sub milk cooling plant will be set up at Ariyur. Under National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), it is proposed to purchase and supply 500 Nos. of stainless steel milk cans, 10 Nos. of Automatic Milk Collection Units and clean milk production kits for Primary Milk Co-operative Societies by which 4,000 members will be benefited.

## **SCHOOL EDUCATION**

23. Education plays an essential role in human resources development thus aiding in the progress of the country. My Government has been implementing many schemes in education sector so that everyone gets access to proper and quality education. Around 550 teachers will be recruited this year. The Government has introduced syllabus equivalent to CBSE, in 6th, 9th and 11th standards in this year. This will be extended to the remaining classes in next year. In order to equip the students to face the NEET competitive examination with confidence, it is proposed to conduct NEET coaching classes for additional 750 students in this year. To develop creative skill in young minds and inculcate skills such as computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing, etc. three ATAL Tinkering Laboratories, as a part of Atal Innovation Mission are proposed to be established at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kalapet and Kathirkamam and Thanthai Periyar Government Higher Secondary School, Ariyankuppam at a cost of ₹ 60 lakh (₹ 20 lakh for each School).

24. In addition to conducting various Training programme/Refresher courses to the Teachers, Content Enrichment Training Programme to analyse the existing CBSE content and to explore the gaps using simple classroom experiments with the Science Kit and Maths kit and to improve the understanding of the content, will be extended to the Primary School Teachers. A smart Digital classroom will be set up in all Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools to equip schools with technology driven learning resources and for capacity building of teachers to improve quality of education in Government Schools. 75 classrooms in Puducherry and Karaikal regions have been converted into Digital Classrooms with the assistance from private sector. Similarly Government schools in Yanam and Mahe region also will be converted into smart classes with private sector contributions.

25. To improve the quality of education, the Government has proposed to initiate various programmes/schemes such as Information Technology Laboratories (ICT) in 30 Upper Primary Schools to make the children learn through 3D animated pictures, strengthening of Reading Corners and

Libraries, establishing Science corner in all Government Primary Schools to make the children learn the Scientific concepts through Learning by doing. Girl's Empowerment Programme and Self Defence Programme for Girl Students will be conducted. Digital Literacy Training Programme for Primary School Teachers to acquire minimum computer knowledge will be organized.

26. Repairs and Maintenance and improvement works in schools will be carried out at a cost of approximately ₹ 20 crore and 10 Volley ball courts with flood lights will be established. Eight schools in Yanam region will be converted into Smart Schools under CSR schemes. My Government has proposed to implement nutritious and wholesome Mid-day meals in co-ordination with a NGO viz., Akshaya Patra in Puducherry region in the first instance and around 50,000 students will be benefitted. It is proposed to convert 2 Diesel based Central Kitchen at Karaikal as LPG based kitchen and a new Central Kitchen at Yanam will be constructed.

## **HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

27. In order to promote Higher Education in rural areas, a new Arts and Science College at Korkadu in Embalam constituency will be established and an annex to the existing Tagore Government Arts and Science College, Puducherry. Additional building will be constructed for Kasthurba College for Women, Villianur and additional classrooms at Bharathidasan Government College for Women, Puducherry will also be constructed. With the assistance received from AICTE, Hostel for SC / ST students at Karaikal Polytechnic College will be constructed. It has been proposed to bring in a legislation *viz.*, "Puducherry Private Universities Act" stipulating the guidelines relating to setting up of functioning and regulation of Private Universities in the Union Territory of Puducherry by Private Educational Societies / Trusts. Action will be taken to upgrade the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College as a National Law School. AICTE has approved admission of 240 additional students in Pondicherry Engineering College. Accordingly, additional four courses will be introduced in Pondicherry Engineering College on self-financing mode. I am proud to inform that Pondicherry Engineering College

has secured 100th place at national level in Higher Education. New building will be constructed in Perunthalivar Kamarajar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Karaikal. Tagore Arts College and Indira Gandhi Arts and Science College, Kathirkamam rank between 100–150 in the all India rank in Higher Education. Puducherry stands 5th in all India ranking in Higher Education.

## **ELECTRICITY**

28. A separate Electrical Inspectorate for the Union Territory of Puducherry is proposed to be set up shortly to discharge the functions as envisaged in the Electricity Act, 2003 and CEA Safety Regulations and this will be the competent body to grant Electrical Contractor License / Supervisor certificate of competency / work permit to various applicants. The implementation of quality control orders of Government of India and setting up of "Meter testing and Standards Laboratory" are also coming under the purview of the proposed Electrical Inspectorate. It is proposed to replace 2 Nos. of 16 MVA Power Transformers with 25 MVA Power Transformers at Thirubhuvanai, and Bahour Sub-station. Installation of 25 MVA Power Transformer each

one at Villianur Sub-station and Kalapet Sub-station and one 31.5 MVA Power Transformer at Marapalam Sub-station are also proposed. It is also planned to evacuate the power from the proposed 110/22KV Thondamanatham Sub-station by erecting 22 KV feeders at an estimated cost of ₹ 5 crore. During the current year, it is proposed to replace around 1,50,000 defective / stuck up meters by Static/Smart meters. 100 Nos. of Distribution Transformers and its allied distribution network will be energized and around 1,100 Nos. of meters in the Distribution Transformers will be provided.

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

29. My Government has been promoting use of Solar energy to strengthen uninterrupted power supply and has proposed to install 1,500 KWp solar power plant during the current year. As part of the programme, it is proposed to install 2 MWp solar power plants in various Government buildings. Action has already been taken to install 1,500 KWp solar power plant at JIPMER. 500 KWp power appliances will be installed in Government department buildings. With Central Financial Assistance, it is proposed

to replace the incandescent lamp and ordinary fan with LED Bulb and Energy Saving fans respectively, in 100 Government schools.

## **FIRE SERVICES**

30. New buildings for fire station / staff quarters at Bahour, Madukarai and Thirukanur at a cost of ₹ 2 crore through loan assistance from HUDCO will be taken up this year. Action will be taken to construct a Fire Station in T.R. Pattinam and to purchase new fire tenders for an amount of ₹ 1 crore this year.

## **FISHERIES**

31. My Government is committed to improve the quality of living of the fishermen community. Government will continue to provide Ban Relief Assistance, Old Age Pension, Lean Assistance and State Insurance Scheme benefits for the immediate family member of the deceased fisherman. An amount of ₹ 31 crore has been allocated for this purpose in the current financial year. Moreover, 50% subsidy to the extent of ₹ 20 lakh per unit for purchase of steel /

wooden / FRP boats for 16 beneficiaries for a total amount of ₹ 3.20 crore, 50% subsidy for purchase of FRP vallam for 5 beneficiaries @ ₹ 2 lakh per person for a total amount of ₹ 10 lakh, and Reactivation charges @ ₹ 20,000 and ₹ 10,000 of Steel/wooden Mechanized Boats and FRP boats respectively to nearly 624 boats will be granted. ₹ 7.35 crore will be disbursed to 24,500 active fishermen @ ₹ 3,000 under the Central Scheme viz, "Savings-cum-relief fund". Inbuilt Hybrid Ice Plants will be installed in 30 mechanized boats @ ₹ 2 lakh per unit.

32. My Government has proposed to enhance the financial assistance for the following schemes for the well being of fishermen community.

- ❖ 50% subsidy for purchase of mopeds with ice box will be enhanced from ₹ 22,500 to ₹ 30,000 for 10 beneficiaries.
- ❖ Cash prize awarded to 675 meritorious fishermen students who have secured 75% above in 10th and 12th Standard will be enhanced from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 10,000 and ₹ 7,000 to ₹ 15,000 respectively.

- ❖ Input subsidy will be enhanced from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 7,500 per acre for general public and for fishermen and fishermen / women co-operative societies from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 10,000 per acre for undertaking Inland fish culture activities so as to increase fish production.
- ❖ Subsidy will be enhanced from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 15,000 per acre for undertaking brackish water prawn culture activity to general public, fishermen and fishermen / fisherwomen co-operative societies.

## **HEALTH**

33. Hon'ble Members are aware that the Government of Puducherry is providing quality health care through its vast network of hospitals. Due to concerted efforts, major health indicators of the Union Territory continue to remain impressive. I am proud to inform this august House that the Union Territory of Puducherry stands first among the Union Territories and second in All India level in reducing of infant mortality rate. Puducherry stands first with a least HIV prevalence rate of 0.2% among all the States

and Union Territories. Consent of Government of India has been obtained to set-up a Multi Purpose Consulting Unit of JIPMER in Yanam and the same will be established soon. The construction works for JIPMER Hospital at Karaikal at a cost of about ₹ 400 crore will commence shortly. Infrastructure facilities will be improved in the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Research Institute by availing Negotiated Loan from M/s HUDCO Ltd., Chennai. It is proposed to establish a Modern Warehouse for storing all types of medicines / drugs and other consumables in the Government Pharmacy.

34. Considering the increase in trauma cases especially incidents of spinal injuries, it is proposed to establish an exclusive Spinal Injury Centre at the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Post Graduate Institute. As part of the Family Welfare Programme, it is proposed to include the Intra-Uterine Insemination in the Infertility Services provided in the Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital, Puducherry. New OPD Block at GH, Karaikal will be constructed for the convenience of the outpatients this year. Construction of new building for PHCs at Sedarapet,

Bahour and Villanur will be taken up in this year. Additional building will be constructed at CHC, Ariyankuppam to expand the hospital.

35. The new Centrally Sponsored Scheme *viz.* Ayushman Bharath (National Health Protection Scheme) to provide health care coverage to the Socio-economically weaker sections will be implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry this year. The Government of Puducherry is actively considering implementation of an "Universal Health Care Protection Scheme" for the benefit of poor people of Puducherry. Initially, the Government of Puducherry has signed a "MoU" with the Government of India to provide "Cashless Treatment" for the socially and economically weaker section people of the Union Territory. About 1,03,435 families have been identified in the Union Territory of Puducherry to execute the scheme through insurance mode as a joint venture with the assistance of Government of India. It is proposed to extend the scheme to all poor families whose family income does not exceed ₹ 1.50 lakh per year, by providing insurance benefit upto ₹ 5 lakh, under the new scheme *viz.*, "Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme".

Under "Nikshay Poshan Yojana", all TB patients notified on or after 1-4-2018 and all existing TB patients under treatment will be provided cash incentive of ₹ 500 per month for nutritional support.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

36. My Government is committed to make use of Information Technology in governance to the maximum extent for reliable and fast delivery of Government services/benefits to the people. It is proposed to institute Chief Minister's award to be presented on Independence / Republic Day for best IT project of students, best department adopting IT initiatives and best Government College websites. As per the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW), websites for all Government Offices will become operational. It is also proposed to adopt 2 villages as Digital Village. My Government has proposed to introduce Online Service Management System (Manav Sampadha) aimed at digitalizing all service records of Government Servants and the work is already in progress. It is proposed to provide wi-fi at 19 identified locations in Chief Secretariat

complex and Puducherry Railway station by M/s. RailTel under CSR activities. It is proposed to launch online payment portal for payment of Electricity / Water / House Tax bills through CSCs and Gap Infrastructure will be provided to all line department under e-District projects. 14,000 persons will be given training under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Sakshrata Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA). 3,500 persons have got employment through "Job Fair" after imparting special training through Information Technology Department. Action will be taken to enter into an agreement with private companies to provide employment to not less than 200 IT qualified persons every quarter.

## **LABOUR**

37. In order to improve the quality of life of labourers, my Government is developing labour strategies according to the requirement of working class. With a view to ensuring maximum employment opportunity for the unemployed youth, it is proposed to interlink the Employment Exchanges with the National Career Service Portal for conducting job fairs. Two Skill Development training programmes for 5 days are proposed to be conducted

through 2 Labour Welfare Centres for 42 SC women in the trade "Aari work". Online employment registration of 10th and 12th standard students at the concerned school itself is implemented in order to avoid rush in employment exchange and to avoid inconvenience to students. It is proposed to equip 10,000 unemployed youth with employable skills over a period of 3 years at a cost of ₹ 15 crore. The first batch of training consisting of 260 candidates has already commenced. Action will be taken to establish "Unorganized Labourers Welfare Board" this year. Registration/Renewal required to be made under all the Labour Acts/Rules will be provided through online. In order to ensure the well-being of the autorickshaw drivers, Autorickshaw Drivers Welfare Board will be established.

38. In order to increase the employability of the youth of Puducherry, job fair will be conducted with the participation of private establishment and industries in Puducherry in different occasions through the Employment Exchange. For this purpose, an amount of ₹ 6 lakh will be spent in the year 2018-19. Thereby, 1,500 Nos. of

unemployed youth will be benefited. For offering career counseling and guidance to the unemployed youth and students, a Model Career Centre has been set up in the Employment Exchange, Puducherry in the year 2016. A similar career centre will be set up at the District Employment Exchange, Karaikal at a project cost of ₹ 50 lakh. Presently, 37,705 Nos. of Building and other Construction Workers have been registered in the Welfare board in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Mobile canteen facilities to the construction workers will be provided at a 50% subsidized rate at their construction site. This facility will be extended to the beneficiaries through the self employment co-operative sector in Puducherry region on pilot basis. Nearly, 1,000 workers will be benefited per month and the Board will incur expense to a tune of ₹ 1,00,000 per month. Mobile health care facilities will be provided to the construction workers at free of cost at the work site by outsourcing vehicle, doctor, paramedical staff for treatment of non-clinical diseases along with the medicines. For this purpose expenditure to the extent of ₹ 50 lakh will be incurred per annum, thereby 27,000 workers will be benefited.

39. IAS coaching will be provided to the wards of the construction workers through leading Civil Service Coaching centre. On the basis of the eligibility test, 50 wards of the building and other construction workers will be sponsored to a leading Civil service coaching centre for appearing in Civil Services (Preliminary) and Main examinations. An amount of ₹ 20 lakh per annum will be spent for this purpose. On the line of ISO 29990;2010 Certification obtained for three Government ITI's (two in Puducherry and one in Yanam) during the last year, it is proposed to make another 4 institutions viz. Government ITI, Mettupalayam, Government ITI (Men and Women), Karaikal and Mahe as ISO certified in this year for facilitating to make these institutions as Centre for Excellence. The vacant post of Vocational Instructors/Teachers existing in the Government ITI's of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam will be filled up. In the Government ITI, Nettapakkam, new trades viz. Turner, Machinist will be started. It is proposed to install Solar Panel based Green Electricity Generation Unit at 4 Nos. of ITI's in the Union Territory of Puducherry thereby power cost will be reduced to zero level.

40. To equip the building workers with latest technology skill development training in civil works will be conducted to maximize their earnings. This year Skill Development Training will be imparted to 5,000 unemployed youths in the following job rolls viz. 1) Accounts Executive, 2) Animator, 3) Beauty Therapist, 4) CRM Domestic non-voice, 5) Customer Care Executive (Telecom Call Centre), 6) Domestic IT help desk Attendant, 7) Tailor. The Puducherry Unorganized Labour's Welfare Society will be converted into a Board for generating their own source and all benefits will be extended to the beneficiaries, as provided to the Building and Other Construction Workers. AIMBON Labour Welfare Society will be given grant of ₹ 10 lakh this year.

## **LOCAL ADMINISTRATION**

41. Urban areas of Union Territory of Puducherry *i.e.*, Puducherry, Oulgaret, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam have been declared as Open Defecation free area. Under AMRUT Scheme, two R.O. Plant will be installed at a cost of ₹ 12.50 crore in Puducherry for providing purified drinking water to public at free of cost one each at Rainbow Nagar and Thirukanchi. The Government of India have released

₹ 100 crore for Smart City project and necessary action has already been taken to appoint Project Consultant. As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, all necessary action will be taken to conduct the local body elections early. Allocation of ₹ 2 crore each for MLA–LAD scheme has been made this year as already assured. With a view to improve the livelihood of small traders, loans through banks under MUDRA and NULM schemes will be arranged. Rejuvenation of existing lakhs / tanks will be taken up, and new waterbodies will be established.

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

42. My Government has been implementing various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes/schemes in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Ten lakh mandays are proposed to be generated under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) this year. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Block Level Federation (BLF) will be strengthened and Revolving Fund will be given to 180 SHGs. In order to empower women in agriculture, Mahila Kisan Shasthikaran Pariyojana

will be implemented in 30 Gram Panchayats. Under Swachh Bharath Mission (Gramin), Open Defecation Free status will be achieved in all the 98 Gram Panchayats in this year. Two clusters viz., Bahour in Puducherry district and Thirunallar in Karaikal district have been selected under Government of India's RURBAN scheme which aims at development of rural areas through cluster model by providing for economic activities and infrastructure amenities.

## **POLICE**

43. My Government is fully committed to maintaining law and order effectively thus ensuring peace and tranquillity of the Union Territory. I am happy to inform that Union Territory of Puducherry stands first out of the 17 small States, for the second consecutive year in maintaining law and order. Proposal has been sent to Government of India for an amount of ₹ 50.75 crore for Safe City Project which consists of Integrated Intelligence Strengthening and Surveillance (CCTV), Control Room Upgradation (including PCR vehicles), state-of-the-art anti-terror and bomb disposal measures, automatic traffic management system, upgraded

training methodology to police personnel and project management consultancy. Action will be taken to construct a new building for Reddiyarpalayam Police Station. Construction of Jetty at Karaikal region and Police Guest House at Gorimedu will be completed. To strengthen the police force, action has been taken to recruit 44 Sub-Inspectors, 390 Police Constables, 29 Drivers and 74 other technical personnel this year.

## **PORT**

44. In order to facilitate commercial port operations, maintenance dredging of 2.70 lakh cubic meter is proposed to be carried out at the mouth of Pondicherry port this year. Commercial Cargo Handling operations at Pondicherry port will be commenced in line with the MoU signed with Chennai Port. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Sagarmala", ₹ 44 crore has been sanctioned for dredging of Puducherry Port. The Government of India has released the first instalment of ₹ 18 crore. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study will be done shortly to commence the project.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

45. As the Hon'ble Members are aware that despite financial constraints, my Government has been able to execute many water supply and road projects during last year. With the loan assistance from HUDCO, it is proposed to execute the works *viz.*, (i) construction of 10 lakh litre capacity OHT, laying of distribution line and road work in Kurumbapet and surrounding areas and (ii) Jayaram Nagar and its surrounding areas at a cost of ₹ 19 crore and ₹ 23 crore respectively. Standardization of Karaikal channel from Railway crossing to Kamaraj Salai in Karaikal will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 20 crore this year. Through financial assistance from NABARD, the water supply projects *viz.*, (i) construction of Over Head Tank, Sump, Pump House and allied works at Athipadugai, Serumavilangai, and Ambagarathur in Thirunallar commune Karaikal (₹ 8 crore), (ii) Reconstruction of Manampet bed dam regulator across Thirumalairajanar in Karaikal (₹ 11 crore) and (iii) Diversion of Grand canal and Kozhiyur drain to Nandalar below tail end regulator at Kazhugumedu in Kottucherry Commune (₹ 6 crore) will be undertaken this year.

46. With the assistance from French Development Agency (AFD), augmentation of water supply sources and rehabilitation of system in urban areas of Puducherry District, (Phase-I) will be carried out, and ₹ 50 crore has been provided for this purpose this year. Revitalization of Aayikulam at Muthirapalayam, and Poraiyathamman Koil tank at Vanarapet will also be taken up at a cost of ₹ 10 crore and ₹ 9 crore respectively. Under AMRUT programme, construction of sewage collection well and treatment plant at Engineers' Colony at Velrampet, and Dr. Radhakrishnana Nagar, Oulgaret Municipality will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 7.20 crore. It is proposed to construct the balance portion of Anicut and protection works on the left bank and right bank of Pennaiyar river at Kommanthanmedu Village, Bahour Commune, Puducherry (₹ 5 crore) through NABARD loan assistance. Construction of bed dam across Sankaraparani river in the upstream at Konerikuppam village in Villianur (₹ 34.80 crore) will be taken up this year.

47. It is proposed to execute the improvement works to Adavipolan channel to enhance the irrigation water facilities to Dariyalathippa in Yanam under Har Khet Ko Pani

Scheme (CSS) at a cost of ₹ 5.77 crore. Building programmes such as construction of Police Conference Centre at Goubert Avenue, Puducherry (₹ 2 crore) and construction of additional classrooms for Government High School at Thirukkanur, Puducherry (₹ 1.20 crore) are proposed to be undertaken this year. All possible action will be taken to implement the Ossoudu water supply project after getting necessary statutory clearances in this year. ₹ 50 lakh will be allocated under "Chief Minister Constituency Development Assistance Scheme" to each Rural Assembly Constituencies exclusively for improving basic amenities in villages. 120 R.O. plants will be installed in various places in Puducherry with the assistance of private sector. Pannithittu and Narambai link road works will be taken up this year for an amount of ₹ 38.73 crore after getting necessary approval.

## **INDUSTRIES**

48. My Government is committed to create a more conducive environment for industrial development in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Many incentives such as capital investment subsidy, interest subsidy, stamp duty

exemption, power subsidy, etc., are made available to the entrepreneurs, in the New Industrial Policy, 2016 announced by my Government. PIPDIC has approved 121 projects involving ₹ 620 crore investment and allocated 183 acres of land, and allotted 17 developed industrial sheds and 7 plots which are likely to generate employment for 2,440 persons. The Government of India has accorded approval for taking up Flood Control works in Yanam under "Flood Control Management Scheme".

## **REVENUE**

49. The facility of Early Warning System about Natural Calamities viz., Flood, Tsunami, Cyclone, etc. which is at present available only in the coastal villages in Puducherry and Karaikal will be extended to other coastal areas of Mahe and Yanam regions. Under Rajiv Gandhi Social Security Scheme for Poor Families 2012, relief measures will be extended to 2,000 beneficiaries at a cost of ₹ 9 crore. Data Digitization of the Index Register will be introduced in the Sub-Registries in Mahe and Yanam. The Government has already issued G.O. for importing sand. This has created

a conducive atmosphere for importing sand from abroad. It has also been decided to identify and utilize the sand available in both Government and private lands.

## **SURVEY**

50. All the legacy documents of Survey Department will be scanned and preserved under Digital India Land Records Modernization programme. Re-Survey in the Revenue Villages of Abishegapakkam and Odiampet will be executed as a pilot project using modern equipments like ETS and GPS. The validity of Survey period will be extended for another five years to take up Modern Survey for the entire Union Territory of Puducherry in the coming years. The lands to the extent of 103 acres being identified in excess of the ceiling limits in Puducherry and Karaikal will be acquired and utilized for issue of house patta and for Government use. If the owners of the property desires to give alternate lands, the same will be considered. As the lands already acquired by the Government in Puducherry and Karaikal regions remaining unutilized for long time this measure has been proposed.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

51. My Government has decided to allocate a small portion of the VAT being collected on petrol and diesel for exclusively supporting road safety and environment pollution mitigation measures on a long term basis. The fund will be utilized for preventing transport pollution and improving ambient air quality in the Union Territory.

## **SOCIAL WELFARE**

52. My Government is committed to ensuring the well-being of the people especially the weaker section of the society in this Union Territory. Accordingly, all the existing welfare schemes being implemented by Social Welfare Department will continue to be implemented in letter and spirit. During this year, 363 new beneficiaries are proposed to be included for getting the monthly financial assistance for differently abled persons including 38 SCs beneficiaries.

## **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**

53. The rapid urbanisation and massive migration from various rural areas to urban and urban agglomeration create the necessity to rationalize the land use in urban areas.

Keeping this in view, Master Plan for Puducherry has been notified by calling for the views of the public. In order to reduce the time in getting approval of building plan, my Government has proposed to process the application through online. The beneficiaries under various housing schemes of the Government of Puducherry will be exempted from obtaining approval of building plan. The Government of India has approved construction of 9,500 houses under PMAY Scheme in the last two years. Out of this, 3,000 houses have been construction with the financial assistance of Central and State Government. The remaining houses will be constructed early. An innovative social housing credit scheme, 'PMAY Plus' in collaboration with Banks which provide for a Bridge Fund for facilitating successful completion of PMAY houses early by the beneficiaries has been launched, this has been complimented and the Government of India has awarded Prime Minister Award to Government of Puducherry.

## **TOURISM**

54. Hon'ble Members will unanimously agree that Puducherry is surely one of the choicest holiday destinations not only for South Indians, but also for foreigners. Puducherry

town offers a unique experience with its mix of modern culture and spiritual heritage as "The France of India". The tourism industry in our Union Territory is vital for economic growth. Tourist arrival keeps on increasing every year. My Government is concentrating on preparing a strategic plan to double the tourists arrivals within a period of two years. The on-going rural tourism project at Alankuppam will be completed by 2018 which is expected to attract more tourists. Under "Coastal Circuit" of "Swadesh Darshan", development of beaches at Kalapet, Manapet, Narambai and Nallavadu will be taken up in this year. As a measure of augmenting Government revenue, tourist recreation schemes / programmes as is available in Goa, Kerala, Sikkim will be introduced in order to attract more tourists. By way of various tourism projects like heritage tour, spiritual tour etc., tourism development infrastructure works to the extent of ₹ 153 crore are underway in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions.

## **TRANSPORT**

55. My Government has initiated action for setting up of an Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) in Puducherry in the place already acquired to the extent of

10 acres. Similarly, Government land to the extent of 3 acres has been identified for setting up of the Regional Driver Training Centre (RDTC) in Karaikal. Both the above schemes will be implemented with the Central Assistance from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). In order to ensure the quality of vehicle it has been proposed to setup the Inspection and Certification Centre (I&C) in Puducherry region at a cost of ₹ 15.75 crore, with ₹ 14.40 crore Central funding and ₹ 1.35 crore State funding and the project will be executed by ARAI. A MoU has been signed between Government of Puducherry, MoRTH and ARAI on 21-11-2017. E-Rickshaw will be introduced in Municipal limit in order to reduce air pollution and to promote tourism.

## **ADI-DRAVIDAR WELFARE**

56. In this year, 2,000 SC beneficiaries will be covered under the amalgamated housing subsidy scheme viz., "Bharath Rathna Rajiv Gandhi Housing Subsidy" and "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana". The financial assistance for performing marriage being granted to the first 2 SC girls whose

family income is within ₹ 2 lakh will be increased from ₹ 75,000 to ₹ 1 lakh each. The financial assistance of ₹ 1 lakh being extended for inter-caste marriage will be enhanced to ₹ 2.50 lakh on par with the scheme being implemented by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi. Action will be initiated to construct a new building in the premises of Adi-Dravidar Welfare department to accommodate the PADCO Administrative Office presently functioning in a private rental building.

## **WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES**

57. The Department of Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare will be bifurcated and officers will be posted accordingly. This Government has been implementing various welfare schemes for the educational and economic upliftment of the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Minorities. As education is a basic requirement for socio-economic development, the Government lays greater emphasis on educational advancement of the backward classes and minorities. Keeping this in view, scholarships, prizes, incentives, etc., will be extended for the benefit of students

of these communities. Backward Class census will be undertaken and completed this year.

## **WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

58. This Government is committed to the well being and development of children and women in our Union Territory. My Government proposes to establish a Counselling Centre to offer counselling to the Adolescent boys/girls to overcome stress, depression, etc. Under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), my Government proposes to substitute the existing pattern of Hot Cooked Meals with ready-to-cook fortified micro nutrient food items for one day in a week on trial basis to address the problem of Anaemia among children and pregnant/lactating mothers. An amount of ₹ 365 crore has been allocated in the current financial year for payment of Old Age Pension and Disabled Pension. Additional 300 beneficiaries will be provided Old Age Pension per Assembly Constituency this year. The Government will mobilize additional resources for this purpose and allocate funds accordingly.

59. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, this budget is being presented under challenging circumstances. However, provision for quality of education, health care, sanitation and all ongoing welfare schemes has been adequately taken care of in this budget. My Government is taking necessary steps to enhance the fiscal position and improve fiscal consolidation taking into consideration the inadequate central grants and limited financial resources. With this conclusion, I place this budget for the year 2018-19 before this august House and solicit the support of Hon'ble Members in this regard.

**NANDRI !**

**VANAKKAM !!**

**CLEAN-INDIA**



**GREEN-PUDUCHERRY**