



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY



Address by

Dr. TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

to

**THE PUDUCHERRY
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

9th March, 2023



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எண்ணுங் காரியங்கள் எல்லாம் - வெற்றி
ஏறப் புரிந்தருளல் வேண்டும் - தொழில்
பண்ணப் பெருநீதியம் வேண்டும் - அதில்
பல்லோர் துணைபுரிதல் வேண்டும்.

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members of this Legislature,

I am happy to be among you today on the occasion of the beginning of this fourth session of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly and desire to express my warm greetings to all.

2. “எல்லா உயிர்களிலும் நானே இருக்கிறேன்.

என்றுரைத்தான் கண்ண பெருமான்

எல்லோரும் அமர நிலை யெய்தும் நன் முறையை

இந்திய உலகிற்கு அளிக்கும் - ஆம்

இந்திய உலகிற்கு அளிக்கும் - ஆம் ஆம்

இந்தியா உலகிற்களிக்கும் - வாழ்க”

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

The G 20 summit has been conducted, to address major issues related to the global economy, international financial stability, climatic change and sustainable

development and our beloved Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi Ji, is consistently working on it which gives great pleasure to us. I hereby record that from December 2022, India has assumed the G 20 presidency for a year with around 200 meetings throughout India of which one was held in Puducherry on 30th and 31st January 2023 with an intention to secure sustainable global economic growth and prosperity by which our Union Territory of Puducherry has been honoured.

3. With the aim of creating awareness and increase production and consumption of millets, United Nations at the behest of Hon'ble Prime Minister declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets. As told by our Hon'ble Prime Minister "India is honoured to be at the fore-front of popularizing millets. Millets consumption furthers nutrition, food security and welfare of farmers".

4. I am happy to inform to this August house that the Union Territory of Puducherry is placed on Top rank with overall score of 65.99% in the Social Progress Index (SPI) released for all the States/Union Territories. The index used for ranking comprised the components like Water and Sanitation, Shelter, Personal Safety, Personal freedom and Choice. The study was conducted by the

Institute For Competitiveness (IFC) mandated by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Government of India. Further, I feel proud that the Union Territory of Puducherry received National Awards from the Hon'ble President of India for the Best NSS Programme Officer category as well as the Best NSS unit Award.

5. On the financial front, this Government has performed well during 2022-23. Due to the release of additional central assistance of ₹ 1,400 crore by Government of India, an amount of ₹ 11,500 crore has been allocated towards expenditure for the Financial Year 2022-23.

6. Hon'ble Members may be aware that the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is one of the major indicators for determining the health of the State's economy. The GSDP of the Union Territory has been estimated at ₹ 39,019 crore (current price) for 2022-23 which is 4.09% higher than the previous year. The per capita income of Puducherry increased from ₹ 2,14,913 (current price) for the year 2021-22 to ₹ 2,22,451 (current price) for the year 2022-23, showing a growth rate of 3.51%.

7. With this positive note, now I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members on the major sectoral achievements made by this Government during the Financial Year 2022-23.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

**8. “வயிற்றுக்கு சோறுண்டு கண்டிர் – இங்கு
வாழும் மனிதரெல் லோர்க்கும் – பயிற்று
உழுதுண்டு வாழ்வீர்”**

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

Hon'ble Members know that agriculture is vital for food security and supports the sustainable development of rural economy. To develop the economy especially in rural areas, this Government is implementing various schemes for increasing the agricultural production in the Union Territory of Puducherry by issue of Agricultural inputs at subsidized cost, transfer of technological knowhow to the farmers, by conducting training and field visits.

9. On this occasion, I am happy to share with the Hon'ble Members that the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2019 was awarded to the Puducherry Market Committee for successful implementation of the scheme e-NAM - National Agriculture Market. Relief measures were extended to 7,036 paddy farmers to the tune of ₹ 7.10 crore for the crops affected due to North-East Monsoon 2021-22 in Puducherry and Karaikal regions. During 2022-23, an amount of ₹ 93.24 lakh was extended to sugarcane and papaya crops affected farmers of 871 in Puducherry region.

An amount of ₹ 2.30 crore was also extended to 4,842 paddy farmers in Karaikal region. Under the Scheme PM-KISAN - the landholding farmers' families are provided with financial benefits to tune the of ₹ 13.06 crore benefitting 10,955 farmers.

10. During 2022-23, an amount of ₹ 91.25 lakh was extended to 1,097 general farmers cultivated paddy crops in Sornavari 2021-22 season and ₹ 1.39 crore was extended to 1,614 of general farmers cultivated paddy crops in Navarai 2021-22 season as production incentive in Puducherry region. Further, an amount of ₹ 4.45 crore was spent as production incentive to 5,313 general farmers cultivating paddy crops in Samba 2021-22 season. Production incentive of ₹ 73.36 lakh was disbursed to 1,964 farmers producing groundnut, pulses, millets, gingelly and cotton.

11. In Karaikal region, production incentives for kuruvai paddy were extended to 738 general farmers and 95 SC farmers for an amount of ₹ 75.46 lakh and ₹ 8.60 lakh respectively. Also in total ₹ 5.61 crore were provided to general category farmers and ₹ 65.50 lakh to SC farmers as production incentive subsidy for Samba, Thaladi, Navaari for the paddy, pulses, sesame and

cotton crops. 831 sugarcane cultivators were extended ₹ 1.88 crore and an amount of ₹ 6.23 lakh was extended to 26 seed growers for samba 2021-22 as production incentive.

12. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - crop insurance scheme, an amount of ₹ 13.77 crore was released as insurance claim to 9,137 farmers of Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam region for the crops affected due to Nivar/Burevi cyclone during 2020-21. An amount of ₹ 36.49 lakh has been released benefitting 524 and 21 horticulture farmers respectively in Puducherry and Karaikal regions as back ended subsidy. Similarly, to encourage Horticulture activities in homes, an amount of ₹ 22.50 lakh was extended for Roof Top Garden and Horticulture Kits worth ₹ 3,000 at the rate of 75% subsidy for 1,000 beneficiaries. Apart from this 2,000 free vegetable seed mini-kits were also distributed at a cost of ₹ 4.50 lakh.

13. Under the Coconut Development Board Scheme, financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 16.12 lakh has been extended to 197 farmers for demonstration plots. Production incentives of ₹ 28 lakh has also been extended to 1,086 farmers for cultivation of coconut. Under the scheme National Horticulture Mission, financial assistance

of ₹ 47.69 lakh was extended to 12 beneficiaries for establishment of Mushroom production units at Puducherry and Karaikal regions. For area expansion under horticultural crops back ended subsidy of ₹ 20.51 lakh was extended to 420 farmers covering an area of 140 hectare.

14. Under the scheme Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), subsidy to the tune of ₹ 1.08 crore has been extended to farmers towards the purchase of 48 tractors, 18 power tillers, 1 transplanter, 3 rotavators, 4 power weeders and 1 baler in Puducherry region. As such, subsidy to the tune of ₹ 50 lakh has been extended towards the purchase of 6 tractors, 21 power tillers, 1 transplanter, 1 power weeder, 1 cultivator, 3 balers in Karaikal region. Farm Fest 2023-cum-33rd Flower, Vegetable and Fruit show was conducted in a very grand manner from 10th to 12th February 2023 in Puducherry.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

15. “பாலைப் பொழிந்துதரும் பாப்பா - அந்த
பசு மிக நல்லதழு பாப்பா.....
நெல்லு வயலில் உழுது வரும் மாடு
அண்டிப் பிழைக்கும் நம்மை ஆடு - இவை
ஆதரிக்க வேணுமழு பாப்பா” -தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

Knowing the fact that livestock plays an important role in the economy of farmers, this Government has given high priority for Animal Husbandry in view of its immense potential in generating employment and food production, particularly in rural areas.

16. This Government has been providing all the Veterinary services at free of cost through the network of field Veterinary Institutions. During the year 2022-23, under the scheme Livestock Health and Disease Control (LHDC), mobile veterinary unit at a cost of ₹16 lakh has been purchased. Under National Animal Disease Control Programme 9,000 doses of Brucella Vaccine have been purchased for female calves aged 4 to 8 months. In order to facilitate the process of biotechnology research at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER), Puducherry, an amount of ₹ 2 crore has been provided towards establishment of Central Instrumentation Facility.

17. Under Special Livestock Breeding Programme (SLBP), cattle feed and calf feed were distributed at 75% subsidy to the non-members of milk co-operative societies. Cattle feed of 1,755 tonne was distributed to

4,845 milch cattle for an amount of ₹ 3.65 crore and calf feed of 183 tonne was distributed to 760 Heifer Calves for an amount of ₹ 38.50 lakh. Under National Livestock Mission - Risk Management and Insurance Scheme, 4,500 milch animals have been insured with subsidy. Under Rural Backyard Development of Poultry birds, 4,500 numbers of 6-8 weeks dual purpose Giriraja birds at 50% subsidy have been distributed to the farmers. An amount of ₹ 2 crore has been provided for purchase of 800 milch cows at 50% subsidy rate benefitting BPL farmers. Further, an amount of ₹ 30 lakh has been provided for purchase and distribution of 10,350 turkey poults in pairs of 6 week old at 50% subsidy to 5,175 livestock farmers.

ART AND CULTURE

18. “கட்டிக் கரும்பான - இசைத்தமிழ்

காதில் கேட்டவுடன்

எட்டுவகைச் செல்வமும் - தாம் பெற்றார்

என்னை சுமந்து பெற்றார்”

-பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன்

To encourage and promote the traditional arts/artists by way of showcasing their talents and to create an awareness for public, the Contemporary Art Gallery was conducted in Puducherry.

19. This Government has enhanced the monthly financial assistance of ₹ 500 per month to the 163 Indigent Artists, 4 Tamil scholars and 70 Awardees of Kalaimamani / Tamilmamani / Telugu Ratna / Malayala Ratna since April 2022 at the rate of ₹ 2,150, ₹ 2,700 and ₹ 3,750 per month according to the age group up to 59 years, 60-79 years, 80 years and above respectively.

20. On the occasion of celebration of "Har Ghar Tiranga" under "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav", 3,10,000 National Flags were distributed to the households and "Har Ghar Tiranga" programme was successfully conducted from 13th to 15th August 2022. The mega festival viz. "Fête-de-Poudouchéry" was conducted in a grand manner in association with South Zone Cultural Centre with participation of around 300 artists across the nation in Puducherry and Karaikal regions.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**21. “உலகம் உண்ண உண்! உடுத்த உடுப்பாய்
புகல்வேன்” உடைமை மக்களுக்கு பொது
புனியை நடத்து பொதுவில் நடத்து !**

-பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன்

During the financial year 2022-23 under the State free rice scheme to benefit 3.53 lakh family ration card holders an amount of ₹ 200 crore was spent. An amount of ₹ 12.94 crore was spent by Government of India on monthly basis to benefit 1.90 lakh "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" (AAY) and Priority House Hold family card holders. Apart from this, under Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), food grains at free of cost was distributed to 1.90 lakh family card holders in all regions.

22. In order to support the families, which suffered due to heavy rainfall and flood that occurred in river Godavari at Yanam region during July 2022, financial assistance of ₹ 5,000 per card in respect of AAY/PHH card holders and ₹ 4,500 per card in respect of Non-PHH card holders of Yanam region was granted. In addition to the rain relief, cash equivalent *in lieu* of 25 Kg. rice @ ₹ 1,000 was also disbursed to AAY/PHH card holders of Yanam region. In total, the relief measures to the tune of ₹ 8.80 crore was disbursed benefitting 15,600 card holders.

23. In order to avoid escalation of cost of essential food grains, oil, sugar, *etc.*, during the festival season, Deepawali Sirappu Angadi was conducted for 10 days. *In lieu* of distribution of free rice and sugar for Deepawali Festival, cash equivalent of ₹ 430 and for Pongal Festival *in lieu* of Pongal Gift hamper an amount of ₹ 500 has been given to all family card holders amounting to ₹ 15.25 crore and ₹ 17.66 crore respectively.

COOPERATION

24. The primary objective of the cooperation is to protect the rights of people both as producers and consumers. Knowing the importance of co-operative movement, this Government has released a sum of ₹ 49.55 lakh as Grants-in-Aid under Handloom Development Scheme to PONTEX, PONFAB and Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies functioning in Puducherry.

25. To meet out the growing demand for housing, the Pondicherry State Co-operative Housing Federation constructed 63 flats at Muthupillaipalayam. Towards the welfare of Members of Housing Society as well as farmers, this Government has waived a sum of ₹ 2.37 crore as penal interest and reimbursed an amount of ₹ 1.45 crore

as tractor hire charges benefitting 555 members and 7,549 farmers respectively during 2022-23. Fund has been provided as share capital assistance to the tune of ₹ 5 crore to Pondicherry Urban Co-operative Bank and an amount of ₹ 2 crore to Puducherry State Co-operative Bank so as to increase their Capital to Risk Assets Ratio (CRAR) as indicated by RBI. Further, fund for an amount of ₹ 30 crore has been provided towards revival of sick co-operative institutions.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

26. “விசையுறு பந்தினைப் போல் – உள்ளம்

வேண்டிய பழ செல்லும் உடல் கேட்டேன்”

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

Under Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) programme, National Immunization Day was conducted in the Union Territory of Puducherry at 453 booths covering all children in the age group of 0-5 years of age with b-OPV. The coverage was 89,456 children as against the target of 86,801 children. National Programme on Palliative Care (NPPC) has been implemented in Out Patient Department services with monthly average of 200 patients and 10 bedded palliative care ward for inpatients has also

been provided at Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute, Puducherry with a monthly average of 45 patients.

27. Karikalampakkam, Community Health Centre, was awarded cash prize for Kayakalp winner for Best CHC in the Union Territory of Puducherry and with the cash prize a generator of 230 KW capacity has been installed for the Oxygen Generation Plant and Health Care Centre.

28. In the Community Health Centre of Thirunallar, Karaikal region, 32.5 KVA Three Phase Generator, 500 MA X-Ray Machine were installed in the Radiology Department and Short Wave Diathermy in the Physiotherapy Unit was also installed. Under National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme (NTEP), five fluorescence Microscope and one CBNAAT equipment were received from Central TB Division for effective use in Intermediate Referral Laboratory (IRL), Puducherry. All three Line Probe Assay rooms are upgraded with panel works and lab facilities were also improved as per the contamination control measures of Central TB Division/WHO guidelines.

29. In COVID Management programme, whole Genome Sequencing Machine was purchased for an amount of ₹ 3.84 crore and installed in IGM&RI. Ultra Sound Machine

to Government General Hospital, Mahe was supplied at a cost of ₹ 12.95 lakh. Four Ambulances of high end and 11 Ambulances were purchased and distributed to the Hospitals/PHC's in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 4.0) was successfully implemented in Puducherry and Mahe regions in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Under the scheme Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana the medical treatment was given up to ₹ 5 lakh per family per annum to the people living below poverty line. In the Union Territory of Puducherry, 1,71,305 families have enrolled under this scheme and enrolment cards are being issued to them. So far, an amount of ₹ 16 crore has been spent to benefit 28,711 beneficiaries.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

30. In order to support the temples for renovation/ repair works, an amount of ₹ 2.98 crore was disbursed as Grant-in-aid to 18 purview and 42 non-purview temples in the Union Territory of Puducherry. An amount of ₹ 39.20 lakh has been released towards the financial assistance to perform Oru Kala Pooja in 196 temples. Financial assistance was extended to perform Kumbabishekam in 10 temples situated in Puducherry region.

ELECTRICITY

31. The Union Territory of Puducherry is receiving 100 MW of Solar Power of NTPC and 90 MW of Wind Power since June 2022 from the already executed Power Purchase Agreements for the purchase of 390.64 MW of Renewable Energy Power. It is expected that total purchase of Renewable Energy may reach 600 MU by the end of 2023-24. A Power Purchase Agreement has been signed between NLC India Limited (NLCIL) and Government of Puducherry in May 2022 for purchase of 100 MW of power from the proposed 2400 MW power plant at Talibara in the State of Odisha.

**32. வானமெங்கும் பரிதியின் சோதி;
மலைகள் மீதும் பரிதியின் சோதி;
தானை நீர்க்கடல் மீதிலும் ஆங்கே
தரையின் மீதும் தருக்களின் மீதும்
கான கத்திலும் பற்பல ஆற்றின்
கரைகளின் மீதும் பரிதியின் சோதி;**

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

Under Phase-II Grid connected Solar programme, connecting the solar power generated from the roof top of the resident of Puducherry to the grid has been implemented. During the year 2022-23, Roof Top Solar PV power plants for a total capacity of 2.50 MW has been installed

and connected to the Grid. 34 new distribution transformers of various capacities were energised and enhanced to higher capacities. 60 Kms. of HT lines and LT lines were energised. 8 new HT Industrial Services and 23 LT Industrial Services were energised. Further, 8,572 Domestic services, 1,474 commercial services, 36 Agricultural services, 3,392 LED Street lights and 1,492 street lights were effected. 1,852 defective / Stuck up Electro Mechanical Meters were converted into Electro Static Meters. Under Cable conversion scheme, 89 LT Overhead services were converted into Under Ground cable system.

33. I am happy to share with the Hon'ble Members that upon successful establishment of SCADA-DMS Centre within the stipulated time period under R-APDRP Part-A (SCADA) project, M/s. Power Finance Corporation Limited(PFCL) has converted the 100% loan amount of ₹ 9 crore, received from Government of India along with accrued interest of ₹ 1 crore, totalling to ₹ 10 crore into 100% Grant. An amount of ₹ 11.50 crore has been availed as rebate for an advance payment of ₹ 767 crore towards Purchase of Power.

FISHERIES & FISHERMEN WELFARE

34. Hon'ble Members will admit that fisheries sector has immense potential to enhance incomes and economic prosperity of fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors and other stakeholders involved in fishing and fisheries related allied activities. Therefore, this Government has given more focused attention to this sector through new policies, financial support to accelerate its development in a sustainable manner.

35. In order to support 18,072 fisher families of this Union Territory of Puducherry during the 61 days Ban period, an amount of ₹ 10.29 crore has been released. Besides, Lean relief assistance amounting to ₹ 4.57 crore was provided to 18,298 families and an amount of ₹ 27.59 crore was granted as Old Age Pension to 8,159 aged fishers. Under the scheme "Reactivation charges to the registered boat owners during the fishing ban period" an amount of ₹ 71.90 lakh was extended to the 386 registered boat owners. 75% subsidy to the tune of ₹ 15.15 lakh towards annual insurance premium was paid to the 227 registered mechanized boat owners for insuring their boats.

36. An amount of ₹ 65.71 lakh was reimbursed under "Supply of fishery requisites" scheme at 50% subsidy to 776 Fishers. Diesel spot subsidy for an amount of ₹ 3.64 crore has been issued to fishing boats. Under the "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" programme, input subsidy @ ₹ 7,500 per acre was extended to 216 fish farmers covering 287 acres for an amount of ₹ 21.57 lakh. An amount of ₹ 22.63 lakh were disbursed as cash award to 393 fishermen students passed 10th and 12th with 75% and above score in the public exam. An amount of ₹ 8.47 lakh was released as Grants-in-aid to the Fish Farmers Development Agency, Puducherry.

37. In order to safeguard the fishers if, death or permanent/partial disability happens 34,200 fisher were insured. Two nominees of the deceased fishers were extended insured amount totalling to ₹ 10 lakh @ ₹ 5 lakh each under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme. An amount of ₹ 5.67 crore was extended to 18,884 beneficiaries at the rate of ₹ 3,000 under the sub-component "Livelihood and nutritional support for socio-economically backward, active traditional fisher families for conservation of fisheries resources during fish ban/lean period". 8 Motor Cycles with ice boxes were supplied to the fish vendors of Puducherry and Karaikal regions with a total cost of ₹ 3.15 lakh.

HIGHER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

**38. “அறிவை வளர்த்திட வேண்டும் - மக்கள்
அத்தனை பேருக்கும் ஒன்றாய்
சிறியரை மேம்படச்செய்தல் - மின்பு
தெய்வம் எல்லோரையும் வாழ்த்தும்”**

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

It is a known fact to all that Higher & Technical Education is the crucial factor that will empower the youths to participate in the developmental process. In order to ensure a continuous job opportunities to the growing manpower, we need large investments in public sector Institutions of higher learning combined with fundamental reforms of curriculum.

39. This Government is extending continuous financial assistance to the students who are getting admission through CENTAC and pursuing professional education. Accordingly under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme an amount of ₹ 20.48 crore was disbursed to 5,472 students consisting of 415 Medical students, 4,176 Engineering students and 881 Nursing students.

40. In order to strengthen and improve facilities to the rural colleges, funds have been provided for construction of additional class rooms at a cost of ₹ 1.32 crore in Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Arts College, Kalitheerthalkuppam and an amount of ₹ 1.20 crore was also provided for construction of Academic Block in the new Campus of Kasturba College for Women, Villianur. The existing Women's Polytechnic College was upgraded to Women's Engineering College with an intake of 240 students from the academic year 2022-23.

INDUSTRIES

**41. “தொழிலே வாழி நீ ! தொழிலே வாழி நீ !
எழிலை உலகம் தழுவும் வண்ணம்
ஒழியா வளர்ச்சியில் உயரும் பல்வகைத்
தொழிலே வாழி நீ ! தொழிலே வாழி நீ”**

-பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன்

This Government had made Puducherry a most preferred industrial investment destination by taking strong and specific initiatives to ensure timely and hassle free guidance / clearance to new entrepreneurs. In order to motivate the new entrepreneurs this Government has been providing subsidy under the Scheme "Motivation of

Entrepreneurs to Industries and Fiscal Assistant to Industries' and it also provides wide range of services and support to the entrepreneurs and educated unemployed youth/artisans for setting up self employed enterprises. An amount of ₹ 85.14 lakh has been released to the 229 SHG's members to purchase small equipment / tools involved in the Food Processing Activities. This year Bank loans have been arranged to develop 55 micro-enterprises with 35% subsidy.

42. Under the Development of Handicrafts scheme, "Handicrafts Training" were imparted to 63 unemployed rural youths. A new batch of training to the 163 youths is now being conducted. Under the "Development of Coir Industries" scheme, 143 persons were imparted training on Coir Rope and Coir Mat Making with stipend. Under the scheme of "Motivation of Unemployed persons to start self employed enterprises", 100 entrepreneurs were sanctioned Bank loan thereby they started self employment ventures. Under the Scheme of "Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme", 22 entrepreneurs were

sanctioned Bank loan of ₹ 1.88 crore for starting their own venture with subsidy of ₹ 60.55 lakh. Through Industrial Guidance Bureau, for establishing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises employments were created by 840 entrepreneurs with an investment of ₹ 67.23 crore.

43. Under the "Training" scheme, 123 educated unemployed youths were imparted 'In-plant Training' and 'Advanced/High Skilled Training' with stipend. Further, new batch of 145 candidates are undergoing training with stipend and course fee. Under the scheme "Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)", an amount of ₹ 85.14 lakh benefitting 261 Self Help Groups has been disbursed. For the year 2022-23 under the scheme "Motivation of entrepreneurs to start industries and fiscal assistance to industries" an amount of ₹ 10.17 Crore has been provided to 45 units in Puducherry region towards Capital Investment, Interest, Generator subsidies and Assistance for Intellectual property support. Similarly, for Karaikal region, an amount of ₹ 60.48 lakh has been provided to 3 units towards Capital Investment subsidy.

LABOUR WELFARE

**44. “வாழ்வுக் கொவ்வாத - இந்த
வையத்தை இந்நிலை எய்த புரிந்தோம்
ஆழ்கடல், காடு - மலை
அத்தனையிற் பல சத்தை எடுத்தோம்
ஈழை, அசுத்தம், குப்பை
இலை எனவே எங்கள் தலையில் சுமந்தோம்
கூழக்கிடந்தோம் - புனித
தொழிலாளராம் எங்கள் நிலைமையைக் கேளீர்”**

-பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன்

Hon'ble Members will accept that the technically sound and intelligent labour forces are the backbone for the development of the nation. Therefore, this Government has given preference for imparting training to the unemployed youths so as to engage them in the economic development of the society.

45. Puducherry Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has extended financial assistance for Maternity benefit, funeral assistance, death benefit, marriage assistance, higher education financial assistance, medical assistance, Diwali gift coupon to the tune of ₹ 16.79 crore to 42,920 beneficiaries. Likewise, 26,177 Puducherry Unorganized Labourers were provided various

welfare benefits to a tune of ₹ 2.69 crore. Mega Job Fairs were conducted at Puducherry and Karaikal region in which 148 and 225 candidates respectively got appointed in 78 companies participated.

46. To give an opportunity to unemployed youth, one time relaxation was given to all registrants whose registration has lapsed in Employment Exchange during the period from January 2017 to September 2018. In Government Industrial Training Institutes 916 youths have been imparted training through online admission. Under Skill Development Programme, two schemes viz., Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) a short duration skill development training and Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) are being implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

47. I am very proud to share in this August forum that Hon'ble President of India has felicitated the Union Territory of Puducherry with the award of First Prize in recognition of the outstanding work under Jal Jeevan Mission for providing adequate and potable tap water

supply on regular basis to rural households on overall functionality among the States / Union Territories having more than 60% households with tap water supply. Further, in recognition of the work of providing Functional Households Tap Connections to all rural households, Puducherry and Karaikal District are declared as "HAR GHAR JAL" certified Districts. In continuation, works related to augmentation of water resources, improving and testing water quality are being taken up. Under "AMRUT 2.0", Government of India has accorded approval for the project cost of ₹ 150 crore for various water supply, rejuvenation of water body, sewerage and septage management projects in urban local bodies of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions.

PORT

48. A Captive Marine Terminal Facility functioning at Karaikal has handled 24,122 tons of liquid cargo and earned revenue of ₹ 24.67 lakh. The Karaikal Port has handled 9 million tons of cargo during 2022-23 through which an amount of ₹ 8.29 crore was earned as revenue. Pondicherry Port has obtained clearance from Customs Department, Government of India for handling commercial cargo operations. Under the Central Sector Scheme "Sagarmala" fully funded by Government of India towards development of Puducherry Port, the Capital dredging

work of 6.83 lakh cubic metre has been completed fully at a cost of ₹ 28 Crore and Port operations have commenced. In respect of the other work of construction of a barrier-*cum*-bridge to prevent flow of sewage into the Port's navigation channel, an amount of ₹ 4.68 Crore has been sanctioned by Government of India.

PUBLIC WORKS

49. For faster economic growth good quality infrastructure facilities are needed, hence, this Government has achieved considerable progress under infrastructure development.

50. Restoration, improvement and maintenance of buildings, roads, bridges and connecting road to villages and reconstruction of 'U' drain and 'L' drain in Puducherry were completed for an amount of ₹ 16.46 crore. In Puducherry, the improvements of road works from Madagadipet junction to Pandasozhanallur junction in Nettapakkam Commune, four roads each in Madagadipet and in Pathukannu area were completed for an amount of ₹ 13.85 crore.

51. Three Mini indoor stadium each one at Rajiv Gandhi College of Arts & Science campus, Thavalakuppam, Bahour Government Primary School in Puducherry region

and at SKVPRN High School, Kanakalpeta Village in Yanam region were constructed with a total cost of ₹ 3.65 crore. In Puducherry under Smart City Project, linking of various urban storm water drains and improvement works for an amount of ₹ 99.50 Lakh and construction of RCC precast Box culvert at two places, *i.e.*, one at Anna Nagar and another at Gundu salai & NH road junction in Ellaipillaichavady for an amount of ₹ 3.73 crore have been completed.

REVENUE

52. Hon'ble Members know that the Rajiv Gandhi Social Security Scheme is being implementing in the Union Territory of Puducherry to all the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. In case of natural death happens to a family members between the age group of 18 and 60 years, funeral assistance of ₹ 30,000, for the Unnatural death an amount of ₹ 75,000, for Permanent Total Disability due to accident an amount of ₹ 75,000 and for Partial Permanent Disability due to accident an amount of ₹ 37,500 were being disbursed. Under this scheme, an amount of ₹ 3 crore was disbursed to 915 beneficiaries throughout the Union Territory of Puducherry. Financial assistance was also granted to the affected people during the natural

calamity. As such, an amount of ₹ 12 lakh was disbursed to 3 deceased persons and ₹ 1.90 lakh to 19 injured persons. Village Development plan at Manapet Village is being implemented under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

53. “அன்பென்று கொட்டுமுரசே - மக்கள்

அத்தனை பேரும் நிகராம்;

இன்பங்கள் யாவும் பெருகும் - இங்கு

யாவரும் ஒன்றென்று கண்டால்”

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

Hon'ble Members are well aware that this Government is continuously implementing various schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation especially for the up-liftment of rural population. Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), 5.56 lakh Mandays were generated. In total, 424 works were completed for an amount of ₹ 14.27 crore benefitting 36,887 rural households. Under Swachh Bharath Mission (Grameen) Phase-II, 97 House Hold Latrines and one Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) has been

completed. Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), 47,611 households mobilized into 3,654 SHGs, 265 Habitation Level Federation (HLF) and 109 Panchayat Level Federations (PLF) have also been formed. Revolving Fund assistance has been provided to 1,777 SHGs which involved financial implication of ₹ 2.67 crore.

54. Under NRLM convergence with Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro-food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, 368 applicants from SHGs were facilitated for seed capital loan amounting ₹ 1.36 crore from PIPDIC. Out of which, ₹ 74.94 lakh have been disbursed to 200 beneficiaries through Block Level Federations. Under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), 310 youths were placed in various companies in Puducherry, Thiruppur, Chennai, Karaikal, Bangalore *etc.* and 291 youths are currently undergoing the training under various trades. Under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) scheme an amount of ₹ 30 lakh was spent towards the implementation of Custom hiring center at 30 Gram Panchayat. For Horticultural activities an amount of ₹ 7.96 lakh was spent benefitting 14,250 farmers. Under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-II), 5 roads of 13.30 Km. length were completed.

SOCIAL WELFARE

55. Knowing the importance of need to support physically challenged people, this Government is disbursing monthly financial assistance ranging from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 3,800 to 20,423 differently abled persons including 1,242 new beneficiaries for which an amount of ₹ 57.46 crore has been spent. Cash dole instead of free rice has been disbursed to 20,423 differently abled persons with an expenditure of ₹ 8.18 crore. As such, 16,301 differently abled persons have been disbursed cash dole @ ₹ 500/ person instead of supply free cloths with an expenditure of ₹ 82.08 lakh.

56. Under Perunthalaivar Karma Veerar Kamaraj Scheme, *ex gratia* for funeral expenses has been enhanced from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 15,000 and disbursed to the kith and kin of 253 differently abled persons for an amount of ₹ 34.70 lakh. For the differently abled persons to ease out the difficulties for movement and conveyance, fuel subsidy has been enhanced from ₹ 61 to ₹ 91 per litre. As such, 160 differently abled persons benefitted for an amount of ₹ 10.42 lakh. Free radio to 200 visually impaired persons and 100 Hearing Aid machines were also issued. 1,576 Unique Disability ID (UDID) have been issued in addition to the 17,862 UIID cards and thus

so far 19,438 persons were covered. Sports day and an awareness programme on "National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction", has been conducted for differently abled persons.

TOURISM

57. It is very familiar that Puducherry is famous for beaches, temples, handicrafts, streetscapes, heritage buildings *etc.* The tourists are attracted by the tourism potentials available in Puducherry and repeatedly visit this region. After COVID pandemic, the percentage of tourist arrival increased by 10%. With the central financial assistance, the mega tourism projects like Renovation of Aayi Mandapam with Dynamic lighting arrangements at Bharathi Park and Development of Blue flag Certified Eden Beach at Chinnaveerampattinam were completed and Blue Flag has been proudly hoisted in Eden Beach at Chinnaveerampattinam. In Kariakal the pilgrim facilities at Sri Badrakaliamman Temple, Ambagarathur were completed.

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING

58. This Government is paying more attention under the scheme Slum Upgradation Programme to improve the housing facility especially to the downtrodden people.

As such, improvements to the internal roads with drain at Aravindhar Nagar, Manaveli, Ariyankuppam was carried out with a cost of ₹ 56.75 lakh. In Yanam region, an amount of ₹ 44.25 lakh was spent towards the construction of side drain with Protection wall and improvements to the existing side drain at Guriampeta.

59. Under the Scheme Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), this Government has enhanced state assistance to ₹ 2 lakh and distributed to 1,850 beneficiaries in the revised pattern of assistance. An amount of ₹ 67.52 crore was disbursed to PMAY beneficiaries and 1,403 Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) houses have been completed. Under the Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Centenary Housing Scheme, ₹ 1.07 crore was disbursed towards 2nd and 3rd installment of financial assistance to 309 beneficiaries to complete their ongoing construction of houses in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions.

TRANSPORT

60. Under the scheme, Implementation of Development, Customization, Deployment and Management of Vehicle Tracking Platform for Safety and Enforcement, a control room with the central financial assistance of ₹ 4.60 crore was constructed and commissioned at Transport Department

complex, Puducherry for a Vehicle Tracking Monitoring Centre. As a welfare measure to women, Free Driving Training Programme has been implemented by this Government for conduct of operation of e-Autos so as to improve the socio economic status and also to ensure the safety of Women in Public Transport.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

**61. “கல்வி செல்வம் எய்தி
மனம் மகிழ்ந்து கூடியே
மனிதர் யாரும் ஒரு நிகர்
சமானமாக வாழ்வமே”**

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

Education shows the importance of hard work and, at the same time, helps more in our growth and development. In order to reduce the drop outs and to support the poor students, the text books were distributed to 94,532 students at free of cost. To improve the quality of education and to bring equality at the Elementary level, an amount of ₹ 42.15 lakh has been utilized to develop early academic literacy of children such as reading, writing and arithmetic in the age group of

5 to 9 years. MoU has been signed with Sri Aurobindo Society for initiating Zero Investment Education Transformation Programme in the Union Territory of Puducherry for training the teachers and Mental Health Programme. To inspire and motivate girl students on Girls Empowerment and for Self Defence Training, an amount of ₹ 7.95 lakh has been utilized. 83,385 students from Pre-KG to Higher Secondary level have been covered under the Midday Meal Scheme funded by Central and State Government. An amount of ₹ 40 crore has been provided towards supply of free laptops to the students studying in 11th and 12th standard.

SURVEY

62. As the Hon'ble Members know that the main objective of "Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas" (SVAMITVA)" using Drone Survey technology is to issue Property Cards to the assignees of Free House Site Patta, enabling them to avail loans and other financial benefits from Banks. In 69 revenue villages, 1,898 Property Cards have been generated/issued to the eligible beneficiaries. With an aim to facilitate the landless poor families, free house site patta was assigned to 65 families.

ADI DRAVIDAR WELFARE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE WELFARE

**63. “வண்ணங்கள் வேற்றுமைப் பட்டால் - அதில்
மானுடர் வேற்றுமை யில்லை
எண்ணங்கள் செய்கைகளெல்லாம் - இங்கு
யாவர்க்கும் ஒன்றெனல் காணீர்
நிகரென்று கொட்டு முரசே - இந்த
நீணிலம் வாழ்பவ ரெல்லாம்”**

-தேசியக்கவி பாரதியார்

It is well known that this Government is focusing special attention on the integrated socio-economic development of the Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes through various welfare schemes thereby improving the status and bringing them in the mainstream of the society.

64. To perform their daughters marriage 266 poor SC and ST families were given financial assistance @ ₹ 75,000 per family involving an expenditure of ₹ 2 crore. This financial assistance has been enhanced from ₹ 75,000 to ₹ 1 lakh and disbursed from November 2022. To provide financial support to poor SC and ST pregnant and lactating mothers, an amount of ₹ 77.27 lakh has been granted. For the poor SC people suffering from various prolonged diseases, financial assistance to a tune of ₹ 4.08 crore has been disbursed to 1,900 SC and ST beneficiaries.

65. *In lieu* of free cloths for both Deepawali and Pongal festivals an amount of ₹ 6.29 crore was disbursed to 1,25,732 beneficiaries. An amount of ₹ 3.05 crore has been disbursed benefitting 122 inter caste married couples. In order to perform funeral ceremony of the poor deceased SC and ST people, financial assistance of ₹ 2.09 crore was given to 1,393 families and the funeral assistance amount of ₹ 15,000 has been enhanced to ₹ 25,000 from January 2023 onwards. An amount of ₹ 14.55 lakh has been released towards grant of financial assistance to 15 affected SC people under SC and ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989. In order to make SC and ST people to live in a pucca own house, financial assistance of ₹ 3.98 crore was given to 373 families for construction of houses under PMAY scheme and under Rajiv Gandhi Housing scheme an amount of ₹ 1.19 crore was disbursed to 95 beneficiaries.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES

66. This Government is implementing various schemes for the upliftment of the Backward Classes and Minorities in their academic, social and economic growth. Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship were disbursed respectively to 3,065 students and 820 students

belonging to Backward Classes. In order to improve the socio-economic conditions of poor artisans, 177 Press Boxes, 65 Barber Chairs and kits, 65 Thavil and 65 Nadhaswaram amounting to ₹ 85 lakh have been distributed for back years. For the current year, 200 numbers of Press Box, 34 Barber Chairs for an amount of ₹ 20.82 lakh were distributed.

67. Pre-Matric Scholarship to 4,317 students and Post-Matric Scholarship to 619 students belonging to minority communities were issued. Under the Scheme Merit-cum-Means Based Scholarship, 48 students from minority communities were benefitted with the overall financial assistance of ₹ 12.34 lakh. Under Karmaveerar Kamarajar scheme of free supply of bicycle and raincoat, an amount of ₹ 4.88 crore has been spent towards supply of free bicycles and an amount of ₹ 60 lakh has been spent for supply of raincoats to the students studying 9th standard in Government and Government aided schools.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

68. “வண்மை உயர்வு மனிதர் நலமெல்லாம்
பெண்மையினால் உண்டென்று பேச வந்த
பெண்ணழகே....”

-பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன்

Hon'ble Members will admit that this Government endeavors at economic development and integration of women into the mainstream of education, equality and social justices. Major programmes were being implemented by this Government to ensure the all round development of women and children. As an initiative, the scheme "Grant of Monthly Financial Assistance to women who are Heads of Families Living below poverty line" has been successfully implemented by this Government from January 2023 in which monthly financial assistance of ₹ 1,000 has been provided initially to 13,339 beneficiaries involving an expenditure of ₹ 1.33 crore.

69. For the Child in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and in the best interest of Children, an amount of ₹ 3.68 crore was released as Grant-in-aid to 29 Child Care Institutions in which 331 children benefited under Child Protection Services. In order to ensure the confidence among the COVID Victim Children, 12 COVID Orphan children have been issued Health Card towards claim of ₹ 5 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). The children were also registered under pre-matric and post-matric scholarship and *ex gratia* amount of ₹ 50,000 has also been awarded to

the orphan children. In addition under Sponsorship and Foster Care Scheme, financial Assistance of ₹ 11.42 lakh has been released to the 12 Children.

70. Under the After Care Assistance scheme a sum of ₹ 7.84 lakh was released to the Child Care Institutions to take care of the 28 beneficiaries in the age group of 18-21 years. Under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme an amount of ₹ 2.87 crore was spent benefitting 28,912 children and 9,560 mothers towards supply of supplementary nutrition. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) scheme, a sum of ₹ 2.75 crore has been disbursed to 5,200 pregnant and lactating mother for the first living child.

71. "Old Age Pension" scheme is continuously being implemented by this Government. 1,64,847 persons of old age, widows, destitute, unmarried women and transgender are availing financial assistance of ₹ 455.35 crore. In order to perform the funeral ceremony, financial assistance was granted to 2,000 deceased pensioners involving a total expenditure of ₹ 2.50 crore. This financial assistance to perform the funeral rites has been enhanced from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 15,000 from May 2022.

72. On occasion of Pongal festival, an amount of ₹ 12.82 crore has been disbursed covering 1,21,365 BPL card holders with at least two family members and 13,644 single member BPL card holders. Financial assistance to a tune of ₹ 4 crore has been disbursed towards performance of marriage of Poor Brides and Marriage of Daughter of Destitute Widows to 1,466 beneficiaries and 134 beneficiaries respectively.

73. With these, I would like to conclude my speech and wish to add that the Union Territory of Puducherry has been developing well in all aspects. This Government is fully committed to improve the socio-economic development of this Union Territory especially to eradicate poverty and is meticulous in distribution of resources proportionately to all the regions so as to avoid regional imbalances.

74. I am sure all the Members will extend the support and contribute their valuable suggestions for the implementation of various developmental programmes in our Territory.

**“தொடங்குக பணியை ! அடங்கல் உலகம்
இடும் நமது அணை ஏற்று நடக்கவும்
தடங்கல் சுவர் சாய்ந்து தூளாகவும்
தொடங்குக - செந்தமிழ் சொல்லால், செயலால்
தடம் பெரும் தோளால் தொடங்குக பணியை”**

-பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன்

I wish all the success for your deliberations and the schemes that are going to be implemented by this Government for the welfare of the people of this Union Territory of Puducherry.

JAI HIND

NANDRI !

VAZHGA BHARATHAM !!

VALARGA PUDUCHERRY !!!



Mahatma Gandhi Square, Beach Road, Puducherry