ABSTRACT

Planning and Development Department - Announcements 2019-2020 - Sustainable Development Goals – Formation of SDG Units in Departments to set up systems and mechanisms for enabling focus to be brought in Departments for the achievement of SDGs - Orders – Issued.

Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (SP.2) Department

G.O.Ms.No.108

Dated: 30.09.2019,
விகாரி – புரட்டாசி –13,
திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு –2050.

READ:

1. G.O.Ms. No.15, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, dated: 21.03.2017 and subsequent amendments issued thereon.
2. D.O. Letter.No.5448/SP.1/ 2018,dated: 06.05.2019.
3. Announcements 2019-2020 of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister on the Floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

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ORDER:

The Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister while moving Demand No.36 for the year 2019-2020 on the floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly made the following announcement:

" நீடித்த நிலைத்த வளர்ச்சி இலக்குகளை மாநில அளவில் முழுமையாக அடைந்திட துறை ரீதியான கூட்டு முயற்சியும் ஒத்துழைப்பும் இன்றியமையாதவை.

எனவே முன்னேற்றத்தினை கண்டறியவும் தொடர்ந்து கண்காணிக்கவும் ஒவ்வொரு துறையிலும், சிறப்புப் பிரிவு ஒன்றை உருவாக்குவது இன்றியமையாததாகும்.

ஆகவே, துறைவாரியான நீடித்த நிலைத்த வளர்ச்சி இலக்குகளின் முன்னேற்றத்தைக் கண்டறியவும், தொடர்ந்து கண்காணிக்கவும் சிறப்புப் பிரிவுகள் உருவாக்கப்படும். "

2. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a bold, universal agreement adopted by 193 Member States at the historic United Nations General Assembly Summit in September 2015 and came into effect on January 1, 2016. The 17 SDGs and 169 targets are a part of "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for People, Planet and Prosperity.

3. As per orders issued in the G.O. first read above, a State Level High Power Committee has been formed to oversee the implementation of SDGs under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government. Eight Working Groups for all 17 Goals have been formed to carry out the activities related to SDG implementation.

4. Each Working Group is headed by the Secretary of Nodal Department. The Working Groups has in its Terms of Reference the Mapping of Goals and Targets, Developing monitorable indicators for each target, Collection of base line data and periodical data collection, Preparation of Vision Document, Capacity Building, Preparation of Annual Status Report on the progress, Convergence of resources for optimal use in achieving targets, Periodical review of targets and achievements, Reporting of achievements to High Level Committee, etc.

The Working Groups are cutting across sectors and departments and provide the forum for higher level decision making, overseeing of aspects related to convergence, and addressing the Terms of Reference on SDGs of the Working Group, in an integrated manner.

5. For that, it is felt essential that each Department has to work on these Terms of Reference and bring in focus its role in the process of the achievement of the goals. Fundamentally, it is looking at work that is being done in Departments through the lens of SDGs. All departments are already collecting data and have certain performance parameters used in the department's monitoring and review of various programmes and schemes. Further, Departments take up policy review, conduct meetings and workshops, capacity building, awareness creation etc. focussing on improvements in schemes, delivery of services and performance. The SDGs only seek to look at this through targets and indicators applicable to each of the departments under the umbrella of SDGs, the correlation of implementation of the schemes – State and Central – to SDGs, existing data collection and monitoring mechanisms linked to SDGs, documenting the progress on SDGs etc.

6. To assess the progress towards achievement of the SDGs, the United Nations has evolved a Global Indicator Framework, from which a National Indicator Framework has been finalized for the Country, and the State has along with it, brought in State Specific Indicators. The indicators call for data on the parameters.

7. NITI Aayog has brought out the SDG India Index Baseline Report 2018. The performance of Tamil Nadu on various indicators therein has shown that there are both areas of higher levels of achievement and areas requiring attention. These indicators are almost all taken from data sources of the Ministry concerned to the Department, which data is given by the Department itself. Identification of areas requiring attention, finding the gaps and taking initiatives for addressing them is part of the core work under SDGs for each department. Naturally, this would reflect in the improvement of work already being done in the departments.

8. In order to collect data and monitor the progress of each target and indicator for the departments and in Tamil Nadu, a dedicated Web based SDG dashboard, with online data monitoring system has been developed through Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency. Provisions have been made to capture District level data for available indicators. The dashboard is an evolving process for looking at how the State fares on SDG from State to Local level.

The online data monitoring system requires continuous data input from the Departments, in regular intervals as per the periodicity of data. The data input needs to become automated in the Dashboard which would require seamless data transfer from the databases of the relevant Departments.

For this the personnel working on data collection and Management Information System in the Department need to be closely associated with enabling reflection of the Department data on the SDG dashboard in addition to the Department's own website.

9. Outcomes are based on the work at grassroots level. Localizing of SDGs in relation to the work of the Department requires to be done.

10. Annually, in the United Nations, all countries present their Country Report on progress on SDGs as part of the Voluntary National Review and Specific Thematic Reviews are also taken up in the United Nations. Report and Documentation of work done in taking SDGs forward in the Department including preparation of the Annual Status Report on SDGs and other SDG documents for the Department needs to be done.

11. SDGs have targets to be achieved by 2020, 2025 and 2030. Value of targets and indicators that are mentioned in the National Indicator Framework are minimum benchmarks to be achieved. The State has already and is to set for itself higher levels of achievement. These need to be continuously monitored.

12. As per D.O. Letter second read above, Departments were requested to appoint Nodal Officers, or Nodal Officers along with Management Information Systems (MIS) Staff. This was found to be not effective.

13. After careful examination based on importance of SDGs and the critical role that each Department has in achieving the SDGs, Government issue the following orders on formation of SDG Units in Departments:

1) Each Department of Secretariat would form a Unit (team(s)), by designating the appropriate officials responsible for monitoring and coordination of the programmes identified as critical to achieving the SDGs, that would assist the Department and strengthen it in the work of the Department in relation to SDGs.

2) The Unit (Team) shall be responsible for the Terms of Reference as already issued for the Working Groups, in relation to the Department at State, Division/ District and Sub-District Levels.

3) The Department is to form additional teams as required for the above, at State (Secretariat/Head of Department), Division, District and Sub-District Levels.

4) It would require that the unit consist of empowered, clearly identified, committed and dedicated team of officials and personnel including ministerial staff and MIS Staff in the Department, who would be able to work not only within the Secretariat, in the Offices of Head of Department, but also work in coordination with other Departments and with the subordinate offices on the SDGs from time to time. It would require to be headed by a sufficiently senior official. At State level, it would need to be headed by the Head of Department under the Department concerned and Division/ District Head at District level.

5) The team(s) is to be formed as a Unit for the work on SDGs with its other select officials and personnel working on it in addition to other regular work. There will be no additional post created for this purpose.

6) The Unit (team(s)) is to be decided by the Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary to Government of the

Department concerned and necessary orders issued in this regard in each Department immediately.

7) The Units (team(s)) of the Department is to work in close coordination with the SDG Cell under Planning and Development Department, the Working Groups, State, District and field offices and other institutions working on SDG, from time to time in furtherance of achieving the SDGs for the State.

8) SDGs and their Progress in connection to the Department, is to be regularly monitored by the Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department and by the Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary concerned, along with other regular review.

9) Copy of Orders issued by the Department are to be sent to the Planning & Development Department and State Planning Commission.

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(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

JAYASHREE RAGHUNANDAN,
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

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To

1) The Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries /
   Secretaries to Government,
   All Departments, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

2) All Head of Departments through administrative department
   concerned.

Copy to:

1) The Member Secretary,
   State Planning Commission,
   Chennai-5.

2) The Commissioner,
   Department of Economics and Statistics,
   Chennai-6.

3) The Special PA to Deputy Chief Minister, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

4) The Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

5) The Senior Principal Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

6) The Senior Private Secretary to Finance Secretary, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

Stock File/Spare Copy

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER.