



**HOME, PROHIBITION AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT
TAMIL NADU FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

**POLICY NOTE
ON
DEMAND No.23**

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CHIEF MINISTER**

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INDEX

Sl. No	Subject	Page No.
I.	Introduction	1 - 3
II.	History	3 - 5
III.	Objectives	6 - 8
IV.	Organisational and Administrative Structure	8 - 11
V.	Operational Functioning	11- 15
VI.	Manpower	15 - 16
VII.	Vehicles and Equipment	16 - 22
VIII.	Communications	23 - 25
IX.	Training Facilities	25 - 27
X.	Buildings and Infrastructure	27 - 28
XI.	Initiatives taken for Preventing Fire	28 - 33
XII.	Fire and Rescue Calls	34 - 35
XIII.	Welfare Measures	35 - 43
XIV.	Incentives and Awards	43 - 48
XV.	Initiatives	48 - 57
XVI.	Conclusion	57 - 58
	Tables I - III	59 - 61

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I. Introduction

Fire, an element of Nature, is awesome in its power. It is indispensable for civilized life but when not handled carefully it is dangerous, destructive and disastrous. Irreparable losses, incalculable damages and untold miseries are caused by fire mishaps. With the ever growing civilization and population, conglomeration of multistoried buildings, Industries etc., risk arising from fire has intensified. Storage of inflammable liquids such as petrol and kerosene and the storage of gas-cylinders such as those used for cooking add greatly to the hazards of fire. As such it has become an increasingly imperative necessity to provide

adequate fire protection not only for the prevention of fire but also for the protection of life and property from the ravages of fire. Personnel of the Fire and Rescue Services Department are day in and day out facing the challenges of dousing the flames of fire so as to provide safety and security to the citizens of the State. In the face of grave emergency and danger, the efforts and performance of the Department in rescue and relief operations have been widely appreciated by the media and the public. The Fire and Rescue Service too has coped with the challenge by equipping itself with the latest gadgets and vehicles, Specialised training of Personnel, establishing new Stations in vulnerable areas, Inspection of buildings under various Acts and Rules by ensuring passive and active life safety measures, educating the public on safety etc. This exemplary performance is the outcome of

the planned modernization and expansion of the Department, which has been systematically undertaken with the consistent support of my Government. The Fire and Rescue Services Personnel have constantly been striving to serve the people risking their own lives abiding by their motto “We serve to Save”.

II. History

The Fire Brigade which was formed as a small city based fire fighting force called “Madras Fire Brigade” in the year 1908 under the control of the Commissioner of Police, Madras, gradually grew to a strength of 55 Fire Stations in the year 1945. The Tamil Nadu Fire Service Department, contains a great deal of tradition from its inception. The task of firefighters is to save lives and property from fire. Considering its growing importance, the

Fire Services Department was newly created in 1967, by separating it from the Police Department and was gradually entrusted with the twin tasks of fire-fighting and rescue operations. This Department was renamed in the year 2001 as “Fire and Rescue Services Department” by my Government, and thus given a fresh outlook, so as to be properly understood and appreciated by the public. Considering the hazardous nature of duties rendered by the fire fighters, women candidates were not considered for appointment as fire officers till 2000. In the year 2001, my Government decided to remove the gender barrier and empower women for appointment in the Department considering that women can render an equally effective service, especially in saving women victims with a human approach. It was during my tenure that the Government of Tamil Nadu became the first State Government

in the country to issue orders for induction of women officers in the Department. My Government constituted a “Fire and Rescue Services Commission” in the year 2002 which is the first ever Commission in India to go into the conditions of service, duties and responsibilities, modernization etc., of the Fire and Rescue Services. Various suggestions of this Fire and Rescue Services Commission were accepted by my Government and put into practice. Thus, the size and organizational structure of the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department, which started as a small city based Fire Service, has grown into a multi disciplinary State unit under the sustained efforts of this Government. At present, the Department has 302 Fire and Rescue Services Stations apart from 2 exclusive Rescue Stations at Kothagiri and Hogenakkal.

III. Objectives

The prime concern of the Department is to protect life and property from the damage and destruction caused by fire. It has established a reputation for itself as one of the most efficient firefighting forces in the country. The other function of the Department is to provide emergency relief and rescue measures to the victims of natural Calamities such as floods, cyclones, landslides, as well as other calamities and mishaps like building collapses, explosive accidents, railway accidents, road traffic accidents and major disasters involving hazardous materials like gas leakages. Its services are also extended to assist the Police Department during elections, riots, fairs and festivals and VIP bandobust. On the regulatory side, it acts as an advisory body to the various licensing authorities, on fire protection

measures for high rise buildings, factories having substantial fire potential and places of public assembly. Organizing Public fairs and exhibitions is permitted only after obtaining a “No Objection Certificate” from the Department, to ensure that they conform to the regulations contained in the Acts and Rules for fire prevention.

The Fire and Rescue Services Department also undertakes the task of fire prevention. The Department has been sanctioned thirteen fire prevention wings to create awareness among the public about the hazards of fire and precautionary measures to be taken. It lays great stress on fire safety, prevention and control and creating awareness about the guidelines on fire safety. Fire Prevention Wings also ensure fire and life safety in buildings and enlighten the occupants

prior to an emergency incident, within their jurisdiction. This Department has produced various fire propaganda materials, including short films, organized street plays and puppet shows and conducted mock drills for the benefit of school children, housewives, rural women, slum dwellers, industrial workers and people visiting commercial complexes, high rise buildings and office complexes.

Fire Prevention has a long term effect and the results may not be immediately seen. However, armed with lifesaving information, people can use the knowledge to save lives and property at any time.

IV. Organisational and Administrative Structure

The Organizational charts as provided in Tables – I and II, depict the organizational

structure of the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department.

The Director of Fire and Rescue Services is an IPS Officer, in the rank of Additional Director General of Police. The Director is assisted by Deputy Director (Headquarters) and Deputy Director (Administration) in Technical and administrative matters respectively. The Deputy Director (Headquarters) post was created envisioning the ever expanding role of the Department in the service of the Public. The Department is divided into five Regions namely, Northern Region, North Western Region, Central Region, Western Region and Southern Region with headquarters at Chennai, Vellore, Trichy, Coimbatore and Madurai respectively. Each Region is headed by a Joint Director or a Deputy Director. The Regions are divided into 34 Divisions and each Division is headed by a

District Officer, Fire and Rescue Services. The Government has ordered the formation of a new Division at Nilgiris District with Headquarters at Ooty which was inaugurated on 11.06.2014. The root level organisation of the Fire and Rescue Services Department is the Fire and Rescue Services Station which is headed by a Station Officer, functioning under the overall control of the District Officer. My Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.3.70 crores for the creation of 5 new Fire and Rescue Services Stations in the expanded areas of Chennai Corporation, namely, at Thuraipakkam, Velachery, Virugambakkam, Maduravoyal and Madhavaram. At present there are 302 Fire and Rescue Services Stations, including the newly opened Madhavaram Fire and Rescue Services Station, apart from 2 exclusive Rescue Stations at Hogenakkal and Kothagiri.

A State Training Centre, located at Tambaram, functions under the control of a Joint Director (Training & Rescue Operation). A Dog Squad with 6 sniffer dogs is available, under the control of the State Training Centre, for locating victims trapped under the debris of collapsed buildings. Tamil Nadu is one of the few States to have a Dog Squad in the Fire Department. The Department has a workshop at Chennai under the supervision of the Joint Director (Training & Rescue Operation) to undertake repairs and maintenance of vehicles of the Department.

V. Operational Functioning

The root level organisation of the Fire and Rescue Services Department is the Fire and Rescue Services Station which is headed by a Station Officer with staff pattern consisting

of two Leading Fireman, one Driver Mechanic, two Fireman Drivers and eleven Firemen. The cost of providing a Water Tender along with other accessories works out to Rs.35 lakhs. The recurring cost in the form of salaries paid to the Personnel for manning the Station works out to Rs.49 lakhs. The cost of hiring a rented building to accommodate the Station till a permanent building is constructed, works out to Rs.6 lakhs per year. Thus, the opening of a new Fire and Rescue Services Station involves an expenditure of Rs.90 lakhs approximately. The District wise break up of Fire and Rescue Services Stations is given at Table-III. Normally, the following criteria are adopted for formation of a new Fire and Rescue Services Station:-

- (i) There should not be any other Station available within a radius of 25Kms.

- (ii) A Station should serve a population of at least 50,000 and
- (iii) The likelihood of fire hazards causing loss of property to the extent of Rs.50,000/- should be there.

In the event of a fire breaking out, information can be provided to the toll free telephone facility number '101'. Every Fire and Rescue Services Station is also provided with a separate telephone. A fire call message in Chennai City, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts is also transmitted through Wireless from the Fire Control Room at State Headquarters to the nearest Station to move the fire unit immediately. Depending upon the need of the hour, fire units from adjoining stations are also diverted.

In the mofussil areas, on receipt of an emergency call through telephone, the same will be recorded by the Leading Fireman in the Station and immediately informed to the crew. The fire unit will then immediately rush to the spot and while the vehicle is on the move, the fire fighters put on the safety gear and ready themselves for the operation. Thus, on receipt of a call, a fire unit is despatched to the spot, immediately.

The role of the Fire and Rescue Services Department is also crucial to disaster management. The Department is fully equipped for effective handling of natural calamities like cyclones, floods and landslides. It has trained swimmers, who operate with inflatable boats, rubber dinghies, life buoys and life jackets at the time of floods and trained Firemen to operate special equipment for

rescue of victims from collapsed structures, landslides, open bore wells, fallen trees etc.,. The firemen are fully trained to rescue people at times of any disaster and move them to places of safety.

VI. Manpower

The Department has an executive strength of 6,805 Personnel and a Ministerial strength of 347 persons. The sanctioned executive strength of the various categories is as follows:-

Sl.No.	Category	No. of Posts
1.	Director	1
2.	Joint Director	3
3.	Deputy Director	4
4.	District Officer	35
5.	Assistant District Officer	46
6.	Station Officer	340
7.	Station Officer (Transport)	169
8.	Assistant Station Officer	16

9.	Leading Fireman	787
10.	Driver Mechanic	111
11.	Fireman Driver	1104
12.	Fireman	4189
Total		6805

However, after opening of the new Fire and Rescue Services Stations at Thuraipakkam, Velachery, Virugambakkam and Maduravoyal with a staff of 68 Personnel, the total sanctioned strength will increase from 6,805 to 6,873.

The requirement for the post of fireman has been worked out as 1005 for 2013 and the recruitment process will begin shortly by the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board.

VII. Vehicles and Equipment

The Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department is equipped with the

following vehicles and equipment to effectively perform its function of fire-fighting and rescue operations:

Vehicles :

Sl. No.	Name of the vehicle	No. of Units
1.	Water Tenders	356
2.	Ambulances	82
3.	Small Foam Tenders	14
4.	Emergency Rescue Tenders	20
5.	Hydraulic Platform	1
6.	Turn Table Ladder	1
7.	Hydraulic Platform-cum-Turn Table Ladders (Sky Lifts) of 37 metres and 42 metres respectively	2
8.	Aerial Ladder Platforms (Sky Lifts) of 54 metres	2
9.	Hose Laying Tender	1
10.	Water Lorries	55
11.	Wrecker	1
12.	Mobile Repair Vans	2

In addition to the above, this Department has been provided with support vehicles such as Jeeps, Cars, Mini buses, Big Buses and Motor Cycles for quick mobility of officers and men to the scene of accident.

In the field of fire-fighting, as a step towards conserving water and reducing the damage by water and for effective and quick dousing of Fire, a new method of water mist technology is adopted to discharge either only water or by mixing water with foam through a high pressure pump along with specifically engineered nozzles that create a very fine droplet size to quench the fire very effectively. This water mist technology can extinguish large fires with less amount of water. In order to introduce this technology, in the year 2012-2013 this Department has been provided with 9 Advanced Water Tenders of 4,500 litres

capacity, 5 Mini Water Tenders of 600 litres capacity and 8 Mini Water Tenders of 350 litres capacity based on water mist technology. Further, this Department has also been provided with 35 sets of Portable Water mist cum compressed Air Foam systems mounted on Motor bikes on either sides which are extremely useful for fire-fighting in narrow lanes and congested areas.

In the year 2013-2014, 10 Advanced Water Tenders of 4,500 litres capacity have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.4.08 crores and they are now under fabrication with Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Coimbatore) Ltd,. Further, 52 Quick Response Vehicles each duly mounted with high pressure pump of 350 litres capacity have been purchased at a total cost of Rs.4.61 crores and deployed in all major towns.

As a step towards modernizing the Department and to enhance the fire-fighting capabilities in the ever growing skyscrapers, one Skylift of 54 metres at a cost of Rs.5.97 crores has been sanctioned. Further, in the year 2013-2014, my Government has sanctioned the procurement of 2 Skylifts (Aerial Ladder Platforms) of not less than 101 metres at a cost of Rs.39.74 crores. After procurement of the same, Tamil Nadu would be the first State in the Country to have Skylifts reaching such heights.

Equipment :

To undertake fire-fighting and rescue works effectively, the Department is endowed with the following equipment so as to save marooned people in times of floods. Poisonous Gas Detectors, Generators, Hydraulically operated Cutters, Spreaders and

Combi-tools are other equipment to deal with all types of disasters.

Sl. No.	Name of the equipment	No.of Units
1.	Mechanized Fibre Boats	8
2.	Inflatable boats with life buoys and life jackets	69
3.	Thermal Imaging Camera	1
4.	Multi-gas Monitors	2
5.	Life Detectors	3
6.	Victim Location Units	3
7.	Inflatable Emergency Lighting Systems	49
8.	Power Saws with Generators	75
9.	Portable type 5 HP Petrol Driven Power Saws	41
10.	Concrete cutters	18
11.	Smoke Extractors	17
12.	Reciprocating Saws	17
13.	Portable Electrically Operated Circular Saws	17
14.	Portable Electric Drills	17

15.	Telescopic Ladders	51
16.	Fire-Entry Suits	81
17.	Chemical Protective Suits	111
18.	Heat Resistant Gloves	222 pairs
19.	Personal Protective Equipment	175 sets
20.	High Range Portable Pumps	228
21.	Floto Pumps	93

In order to afford complete protection to all fire fighters, this Government sanctioned the procurement of 1980 Personal Protective Equipment and Suits at a cost of Rs.28 crores. Further, in the year 2013-2014, this Department has been provided with 38 numbers of Combi-tools at a cost of Rs.75.43 lakhs, which has a dual function of “cutter and spreader” to undertake rescue works very effectively.

VIII. Communications

Quick response is the most important requirement in firefighting operations. Quick communication and mobility are needed to ensure timely service. Each Station is provided with a telephone through which fire and rescue calls can be received and responded to. A modern fire control room with toll free telephone Nos.101 and 102 is functioning in Chennai City. GPRS facility is provided at the Control Room to monitor the movement of Fire fighting vehicles to the accident spots. In all District Headquarters and in large towns, the Toll free telephone facility '101' is also available. On receipt of the information through the toll free telephone facility, the appropriate Fire and Rescue Services Station is alerted and the Personnel are ordered to proceed to the accident spot by the Station Officer / Leading

Fireman. All officers of the rank of Station Officer and above have also been provided with cell phone facilities. The Fire and Rescue Services Stations in Chennai City, Thiruvallur District and Kancheepuram District have been provided with wireless sets for quick communication and prompt despatch of the fire fighting force to the scene of the accident.

Response time is the time taken by the first Fire Unit to reach the spot of a fire accident. In spite of traffic congestion, the Department is trying its best to reduce the response time to the minimum. In Chennai City the targeted response time to reach the accident spot is approximately 6 minutes and in the mofussil areas, it is less than 10 minutes. All efforts are being taken to reduce the response time further, to the lowest level.

A website for the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services with the address <http://www.tnfrs.tn.nic.in> is being maintained by the National Informatics Centre. The website provides complete information about fire safety and the mandated safeguards prescribed in the building rules and licence conditions.

IX. Training Facilities

The Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department concentrates on training its Personnel at all levels for which it runs a State Training Centre at Tambaram. This State-of-the-art Training Centre is equipped with all modern teaching aids and imparts quality training to the Departmental Personnel at all levels, enabling them to keep abreast with modern developments in the field of fire-fighting techniques. Considering its capabilities, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has designated

the “State Training Centre” as one of the “Accredited Regional Training Centres of the National Fire Service College” in Nagpur.

The State Training Centre also trains fire fighters from other States, Public Sector Undertakings, Government institutions and even the public at large. Basic firefighting training is given to private individuals at all Divisional Headquarters for a period of one week on payment of a fee of Rs.1000/- per person. 3,787 private individuals have thus been given training in basic fire fighting practices in 2013.

The Fire and Rescue Services Personnel were deputed to undergo the Pre-Hospital Trauma care training programme conducted by the Indian Medical Association during the month of January, 2014, in all District Headquarters.

Under Disaster Management and Mitigation Plan, Personnel of this Department are being trained on “Capacity Building” at State Training Centre, Tambaram. During the period from 22.1.2014 to 22.3.2014, so far 355 Personnel have been trained under this programme.

X. Buildings and Infrastructure

Out of the 304 Stations in the Department, 216 Stations are now functioning in their own Government buildings, while 88 Stations are housed in rented buildings. The extent of land required for the construction of a Fire and Rescue Services Station building is about 45 cents. The approximate cost of construction of a Fire and Rescue Services Station building which has a built up area of 2300 sq.ft. is about Rs.60 lakhs.

To bring about better synergy between the Police Department and the Fire and Rescue Services Department in undertaking construction works, the Government has issued orders in G.O.Ms.No.479, Home Department, dated 30.8.2011, to the effect that buildings of Fire and Rescue Stations and Offices will be constructed by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation Limited.

XI. Initiatives taken for Preventing Fire

i) Fire Prevention

In order to educate the people about fire safety and fire prevention, fire prevention techniques and life safety from disasters are demonstrated in schools, industries, offices and congested residential localities. Such programmes were conducted in 18,958 places throughout the State in 2013.

To provide a hazard free environment to students, it has been made mandatory for Schools to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the jurisdictional Station Officer of Fire and Rescue Services Station who is to satisfy himself about the adequacy of fire fighting equipment installed in the school. In 2013, Station Officers have inspected 10,654 Schools for issue of No Objection Certificate. Mock Drills and demonstrations have been conducted on fire safety and also on disaster management in 6,693 Educational Institutions in the year 2013.

In order to educate school children about evacuation methods, escape routes and rescue methods in case of an emergency arising from the outbreak of fire, evacuation drills were conducted in one School in every District, on 21.1.2014.

School students are also trained in various elementary Fire Fighting skills and Rescue Methods and are enrolled as volunteers so as to attend to fire mishaps at the initial stages and to assist the Local Fire Brigade in Fire Fighting and other Emergencies.

ii) Fire Safety Volunteers:

To involve the common public and students as a support mechanism for the Fire and Rescue Services Department, Fire Safety Volunteers are being enrolled in all Fire and Rescue Services Stations in the State.

iii) Prevention of Fire in Cinema Halls:

The following important preventive measures are verified before granting licences to cinema theatres.

1. Provision of adequate fire extinguishers and a First Aid box in the operator's room is compulsory;
2. Provision of sprinklers and smoke detectors in Multiplex Cinema Theatres is compulsory.
3. Provision of adequate fire buckets with sand and water;
4. Provision of adequate water storage for continuous fire fighting;
5. False ceiling and wall decoratives should be constructed with fire proof materials;
6. Provision of adequate emergency exits;
7. Attendants and staff should be trained in the use of all fire fighting equipment maintained in the premises.

A Multi-Departmental Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Officer, Fire and Rescue Services, in each District has been constituted to inspect the cinema theatres in the State every year. In order to check the safety of the buildings, the Officers of the Department have inspected 35,745 buildings including cinema halls, factories, shopping complexes etc.,

iv) Fires during Summer Season

A system of mobile patrolling is followed during the months of April, May, June and July every year to attend to fires in the most vulnerable areas without loss of time. By this strategy, the response time is reduced drastically and the loss too is minimized thus averting major disasters.

v) Fire Service Day

Fire Service Day is observed by the Department for a week commencing from 14th of April, every year. Creating awareness among all sections of the people is the primary aim of this Safety Week. The theme followed throughout the Country for publicity this year is “Fire Prevention is the Best Insurance”. During the Fire Service Week, propaganda campaigns, lectures and essay competitions are organized by the Fire and Rescue Services Stations all over the State. The Department also jointly conducts Safety campaigns and Mock Drills with the help of Volunteers, Self Help Groups and major Hazardous Industries. Propaganda campaigns are also conducted through newspapers, television and radio periodically.

XII. Fire and Rescue Calls

During 2013, the Department responded to 25,413 Fire Calls and saved 95 lives. The estimated value of the property saved from destruction by fire throughout the State, works out to Rs.336.40 crores. Further, 3,706 lives were saved by promptly attending to 13,607 Rescue Calls in times of heavy rain and floods.

During Deepavali 2013, in Chennai City, construction of temporary cracker shops in the congested areas of Parrys corner was not permitted and instead they were allowed to locate in the Open Area at Island ground. Further, this Department has carried out effective propaganda on fire prevention and also made standby arrangements by deploying fire fighting vehicles and crew at vulnerable

places round the clock. In view of the above, there were only 301 fire calls throughout the State of Tamil Nadu during the period of Deepavali 2013 as against 911 fire calls which occurred in the period of Deepavali 2012.

XIII. Welfare Measures

i) Fire and Rescue Services Benevolent Fund

The Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Benevolent Fund was created in 1962 for providing financial support to the members of the Fire and Rescue Services Department and their families, in times of distress and for promoting their welfare. Financial assistance is granted from the Fund for the following purposes:-

- (i) To purchase nutritious food for firemen and for their dependents,

diagnosed as suffering from diseases such as Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Cancer etc.,

- (ii) To meet the cost of higher education of the children of Fire Personnel.
- (iii) To provide monetary assistance to the family of members of the Department, who die in harness.
- (iv) To meet the funeral expenses of the members and their dependants.

The number of persons registered with the Fund is 5,166. The assistance granted to the registered members and their families from the Fund was Rs.37.88 lakhs in 2013-2014. The details are as follows:–

Sl. No.	Particulars of Assistance	Amount (Rs.in lakhs)
1.	To meet the cost of higher education in respect of 210 children of the members	10.02
2.	Award of prizes for 10 th and 12 th Students who secured 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd positions among the children of the Personnel and also consolation Prizes for those who secured 85% and above. This prize amount was awarded to 155 children of the members.	3.69
3.	Token grant for the Personnel at the time of retirement awarded to 191 persons.	10.49
4.	Monetary assistance to the families of deceased members.	13.68
	Total	37.88

The Government provides a grant of Rs.12 lakhs to the Fund every year.

ii) Family Benefit Fund Scheme

When a member of the Department dies in harness an amount of Rs.1,50,000/- is sanctioned to the family from the Family Benefit Fund.

iii) Ex-gratia Payment

Ex-gratia grant is sanctioned in cases of accidents suffered by Fire and Rescue Services Department Personnel when performing their duties. The levels of assistance being sanctioned are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Particulars of Assistance	Amount (Rs.)
(i)	In cases of death, while performing duty	5,00,000/-
(ii)	For those who suffer permanent disability, while on duty	1,00,000/-
(iii)	For those who are seriously injured while on duty	20,000/-
iv)	For those who suffer Minor injuries while on duty	10,000/-

iv) Group Insurance Scheme

A Group Insurance Scheme is being implemented covering all categories of Fire Fighting Personnel. Under this scheme relief is granted to the family of the deceased Personnel who die while on duty. The level of assistance has been enhanced in respect of all ranks from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2 lakhs from the year

2012-2013, under this scheme. Further, this level of assistance to the posts of District Officer, Deputy Director and Joint Director has been enhanced from Rs.2 lakhs to Rs.4 lakhs.

v) Food Subsidy Scheme

Through the Public Distribution System outlets, rice is supplied free of cost and wheat, sugar, maida, and dhal are supplied at 50% of the normal selling price to all the Personnel of the Department from the rank of Fireman to Assistant District Officer. A sum of Rs.57 lakhs per annum is spent under this scheme.

vi) Dietary charges for Personnel

Fire and Rescue Services Personnel below the rank of Station Officer are paid dietary charges for attending fire calls, rescue calls and for mobilization duty during

emergencies and this dietary charge has been enhanced from Rs.100/- to Rs.200 per day in Chennai City and from Rs.75/- to Rs.150/- per day in the Mofussil areas in G.O.Ms.No.728, Home Department, dated 17.9.2013 at an additional recurring cost of Rs.2.36 crores per annum.

vii) Canteen facility for purchase of commodities at subsidised rates

For the first time in the country, canteens which supply essential requirements for day to day living were set up in Tamil Nadu in 2012-2013. At present, these canteens are located at Avadi, Madurai and Trichy and a sum of Rs.1 crore was given as the initial sanction. Families of Police Personnel and uniformed service Personnel belonging to the Fire and Rescue Services Department and Prisons Department are eligible to avail of the facilities

in the canteens. The items being supplied are exempted from VAT and hence are available at much lower prices than in the open market.

viii) “Own Your House” scheme

In Melakottaiyur village, wherein it has been proposed to construct 2673 houses, 128 Personnel of Fire and Rescue Services Department have also been allotted houses. My Government has also sanctioned a sum of Rs.8.71 crores as House Building Advance to the eligible Personnel.

ix) Construction of quarters

The Fire and Rescue Services Personnel are working round the clock and rendering service to the public very effectively during emergencies. It is absolutely necessary to provide quarters for the Fire and Rescue Services Personnel near their place of work, in

order to maintain operational efficiency and for quick mobilization during emergencies. All the executive officers and men of this Department are eligible for rent-free quarters as per their service conditions. At present 1,080 quarters are available in the State at different places and construction of 216 quarters by the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation is in progress in 16 places. Quarters will be provided in other places also in a phased manner.

XIV. Incentives and Awards

In recognition of the acts of gallantry and valour exhibited by the Fire and Rescue Services Personnel while performing their duties, and to motivate them to perform their duties more efficiently, the following Medals and Awards are being awarded by the Government:-

(i) The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal (Anna Medal)

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal (Anna Medal) is awarded on the occasion of Perarignar Anna's Birthday, on 15th September every year.

The recipients of this medal for meritorious service are eligible for a lump sum grant ranging from Rs.4000/- to Rs.10,000/- according to their rank. 10 Meritorious Service Medals were awarded to Fire and Rescue Services Personnel during 2013.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal (Anna Medal) for Gallantry was awarded to 5 Personnel for the year 2012 and 3 Personnel for the year 2013. Gallantry Medal recipients are eligible for a monthly monetary allowance of Rs.500 per month. The

Government has ordered that in future, the recipients of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal (Anna Medal) for Gallantry would be awarded with a lumpsum cash reward amount of Rs.5 lakhs instead of monthly medal allowance of Rs.500.

(ii) The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal:

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal is awarded on Pongal Day, every year, to recognise the services of subordinate Personnel (below the rank of Station Officers) who enjoy a clean record of service for more than 10 years. On the occasion of Pongal festival, 2014, the Medal was awarded to 119 Fire and Rescue Services Personnel in the categories of Leading Fireman / Driver-Mechanic / Fireman Driver / Fireman.

All these recipients are entitled to receive a cash allowance of Rs.200/- per month.

(iii) The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal for Excellence

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Fire Service Medal for Excellence was instituted by my Government in July' 2001 as a recognition of excellence in performance of duty by the Fire and Rescue Services Personnel. Every year three Medals are awarded, one each to a Station Officer, Leading Fireman and Fireman and equivalent ranks on the occasion of Fire Service Day i.e. April 14th. Each award winner receives a Gold Medal weighing 8 grams and a lump sum grant ranging from Rs.2000/- to Rs.3000/-.

(iv) Anna Medal for Gallantry

The “Anna Medal for Gallantry” is awarded to Government Servants / Civilians for acts of exemplary bravery. The Medal is awarded on the occasion of the Republic Day Celebrations every year. In the year 2014, posthumous award of Anna Medal for Gallantry was awarded to one (late) Thiru.A.Gunendran, Fireman 6420 of Srirangam Fire and Rescue Services Station for his act of bravery and selfless courage in rescue operations in the Cauvery River at Geethapuram near Mangamma Nagar, Srirangam. The award carries a Gold Medal worth Rs.5000/- along with a Certificate and a prize amount of Rs.1,00,000/-.

In addition, the (i) President’s Fire Service Medal for Distinguished / Meritorious Service on the occasion of Independence Day

and Republic Day and the (ii) President's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry on the occasion of Independence Day and Republic Day are awarded by the Government of India based on the recommendations of the State Government. The President's Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service on the occasion of Independence Day, 2013, was awarded to 5 persons. The President's Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service on the occasion of Republic Day, 2014 was awarded to 6 persons and the President's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry on the occasion of Republic Day, 2014 was also awarded to one person.

XV. Initiatives

Realizing the need to improve the quality of service rendered to the people and also in the interest of the welfare of the Personnel of the Department, the following

important initiatives have been taken by my Government in the last 3 years:-

- ❖ New Fire and Rescue Services Station at Chinna Salem in Villupuram District, T. Kallupatti in Madurai District and Alangulam in Tirunelveli District were formed at a total estimate cost of Rs.2.36 crores.
- ❖ A new Division was formed with Headquarters at Sivagangai by bifurcating Ramanathapuram- Sivagangai Division at a cost of Rs.42.08 lakhs.
- ❖ Formation of a new Division for Nilgiris District with Headquarters at Ooty has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.55.89 lakhs.
- ❖ For the use of Greater Chennai City, purchase of one Sky lift - Aerial Ladder Platform of 54 metres and two Skylifts -

Aerial Ladder Platforms of 101 metres, in all 3 vehicles have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.45.70 crores. Further, staff for manning one Skylift was also sanctioned at a recurring cost of Rs.39.08 lakhs.

- ❖ For the use of major Cities, 9 Advanced Water Tenders, 8 Mini Water Tenders which contains Quick Response Vehicles duly mounted with High Pressure Pumps and 22 Combi-tools which have dual functions of cutter and spreader were sanctioned at a cost of Rs.3.20 crores.
- ❖ 4 Small Foam Tenders for the use of the Fire and Rescue Services Stations at Ambattur, Trichy, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam were sanctioned at a cost of Rs.96 lakhs.

- ❖ 14 four wheelers and 2 two wheelers for the use of the Department were sanctioned at a cost of Rs.71 lakhs.
- ❖ 38 Computers, Printers and 6 Xerox Machines were sanctioned at a cost of Rs.22 lakhs.
- ❖ The Government has issued orders that construction of buildings for the Fire and Rescue Services Stations and Offices should be undertaken by Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation Limited.
- ❖ Director, Fire and Rescue Services has been delegated with powers to furnish estimate of vacancy for the post of Fireman directly to Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board.
- ❖ The feeding charges for the Personnel in Chennai City was enhanced from Rs.80 to Rs.100 and for the Personnel in Mofussil from Rs.55/- to Rs.75/-.

Thereafter, it has been further enhanced on par with Police Personnel i.e. from Rs.100/- to Rs.200/- for the Personnel in Chennai City and from Rs.75/- to Rs.150/- for the Personnel in Mofussil.

- ❖ Risk Allowance on par with the Police Personnel has been enhanced to the Personnel up to the rank of Assistant District Officer from Rs.180/- to Rs.400/- and for District Officer from Rs. 210/- to Rs.450/-.
- ❖ The feeding charges for each Dog in the Sniffer Dog Squad has been enhanced from Rs.54/- to Rs.100/- per day.
- ❖ Under the mega scheme of “Own Your House”, the Fire and Rescue Services Personnel have also been included as eligible for getting their own house along with Police and Prison Personnel.

- ❖ In order to afford protection to the fire fighters from fire, procurement of 1980 sets of Personal Protective Equipment has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.28 crores.
- ❖ Construction of a new building for Directorate Headquarters office at a cost of Rs.5.99 crores.
- ❖ In order to remove the stagnation of promotion for Personnel like Fireman Drivers and Driver Mechanics, 165 Driver Mechanic posts were upgraded as Station Officers (Transport) during the year 2012-2013 involving a recurring cost of Rs.52.87 lakhs per annum.
- ❖ 791 persons were selected for appointment to the post of Fireman.
- ❖ For the first time in the Country, the canteen facility has been extended to the Personnel of Fire and Rescue Services

Department on par with Police Department Personnel.

- ❖ Group Insurance for District Officers, Deputy Directors and Joint Directors has been enhanced from Rs.2 lakhs to Rs.4 lakhs.
- ❖ The financial assistance provided under the Group Insurance Scheme to the families of the Personnel who lost their lives while on duty has been increased from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2 lakhs.
- ❖ Purchase of four pick up vans with required rescue equipment for use in Nilgiris District has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.92.12 lakhs.
- ❖ Two posts of Deputy Directors have been upgraded as Joint Directors.
- ❖ Purchase of one Breathing Air-compressor for refilling the Breathing

Apparatus Sets has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.9.50 lakhs.

- ❖ The post of “Divisional Officer” has been re-designated as “District Officer, Fire and Rescue Services”.
- ❖ In order to provide modern fire-fighting equipment and vehicles to strengthen the Department, 10 Advanced Water Tenders, 52 Quick Response Vehicles, 52 High Pressure Pumps (for mounting on Quick Response Vehicles) and 38 Combi-tools which have dual function of “Cutter and Spreader” were purchased at a total non-recurring cost of Rs.9.45 crores.
- ❖ In order to ensure that all fire fighters have a driving licence, a sum of Rs.21.29 lakhs was sanctioned for imparting driver training to 550 newly recruited Firemen.

- ❖ Formation of 5 new Fire and Rescue Services Stations at Thuraipakkam, Velachery, Madhavaram, Virugambakkam and Maduravoyal in the expanded areas of Chennai Corporation has been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.3.70 crores.
- ❖ In order to ensure the maintenance of vehicles in good condition, the existing delegation of powers vested with Director and Joint Directors / Deputy Directors to undertake repairs to vehicles has been enhanced from Rs.20,000 to Rs.60,000 and from Rs.10,000 to Rs.30,000 respectively. Likewise, the special power delegated to the Director to undertake repairs and replacement of water tank provided in fire fighting units has been enhanced from Rs.50,000 to

Rs.1,50,000/-. In respect of Aerial Ladder Platforms, the sanctioning power vested with Director for repairs has been enhanced from Rs.20,000 to Rs.1,50,000 and for periodical oil change has been enhanced from Rs.8,000 to Rs.50,000 as a special case.

XVI. Conclusion

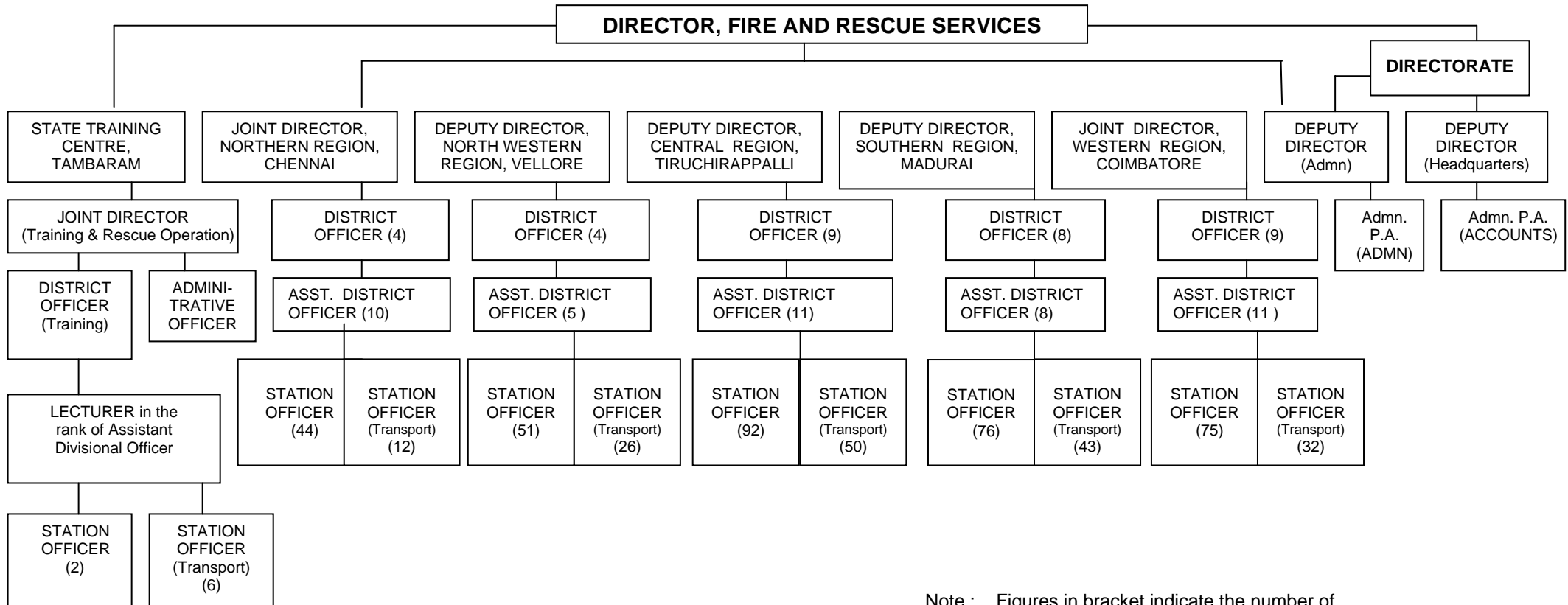
The innovative measures launched by the Department to enhance public awareness in fire prevention and elimination of hazards has yielded excellent results in reducing the number of fire accidents in the State. It will be the effort of my Government to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the Department Personnel and to find new devices to ensure improved performance and services comparable with the best in the world and to maintain the high standards already achieved. Taking all this into

account, this Department is being expanded and modernized in a well-planned manner with continuing support under my guidance. It is meeting the challenges as a specialized agency in rescue operations of all types of disasters and is competent to face any other emerging challenge that may arise with the growth of high rise buildings, commercial establishments, rapid urbanization and industrialization.

J JAYALALITHAA
Chief Minister

TABLE – I

**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
ORGANISATIONAL CHART**



Note : Figures in bracket indicate the number of officers in that cadre.

TABLE – II

STATION AND OTHER UNITS FUNCTIONING UNDER THE REGIONS

Northern Region					North-Western Region				Central Region				Southern Region				Western Region				Total Number of Fire and Rescue Services Station in the State : 302+2 # <u>Other Institutions:</u> State Training Centre - 1 State Workshop - 1 # Rescue Station - 2 Dog Squad - 1 Band Party - 1 Note: DIVN - Division FRSS – Fire and Rescue Services Station FPW: Fire Prevention Wing OTH: *Photographic Section ** Fire Control Room & Wireless Section
DIVN	FRSS	FPW	OTH		DIVN	FRSS	FPW		DIVN	FRSS	FPW		DIVN	FRSS	FPW		DIVN	FRSS	FPW		
1. Chennai North	9	1	1*		1. Vellore	16	1		1. Thiruchirappalli	8	1		1. Madurai	10	--		1. Coimbatore	7	1		
2. Chennai South	9	1	1*		2. Tiruvannamalai	12	--		2. Pudukottai	12	1		2. Tirunelveli	14	--		2. Ooty Kothagiri	3	--	1 #	
3. Chennai Central	7	--	--		3. Kancheepuram	10	1		3. Thanjavur	9	--		3. Kanniyakumari	7	--		3. Erode	9	1		
4. Chennai Sub urban	9	--	--		4. Thiruvallur	8	--		4. Nagapattinam	11	--		4. Tuticorin	9	--		4. Tiruppur	7	1		
5. Northern Region	--	--	2**		Total	46	2		5. Cuddalore	15	--		5. Virudhunagar	8	1		5. Salem	11	1		
Total	34	2	4						6. Villupuram	12	--		6. Ramanathapuram	11	--		6. Dharmapuri Hogenekkal	4	1	1 #	
									7. Karur	4	--		7. Sivaganga	6	--		7. Krishnagiri	7	--		
									8. Perambalur	6	--		8. Theni	8	--		8. Dindigul	9	1		
									9. Tiruvarur	11	--		Total	73	1		9. Namakkal	4	--		
									Total	88	2		Total	61+2	# 6						

TABLE – III

District Wise Fire and Rescue Services Stations

Sl. No.	District	No. of Stations
1.	Ariyalur	3
2.	Chennai	34
3.	Coimbatore	7
4.	Cuddalore	15
5.	Dindigul	9
6.	Dharmapuri (including one Rescue Station at Hogenekkal)	5
7.	Erode	9
8.	Karur	3
9.	Kancheepuram	10
10.	Kanniyakumari	7
11.	Krishnagiri	7
12.	Madurai	10
13.	Nagapattinam	11
14.	Namakkal	4

15.	Nilgiris (including one Rescue Station at Kothagiri)	4
16.	Pudukkottai	12
17.	Perambalur	2
18.	Ramanathapuram	11
19.	Salem	11
20.	Sivagangai	6
21.	Thanjavur	9
22.	Theni	8
23.	Tiruvannamalai	12
24.	Tiruchirappalli	10
25.	Tiruvarur	11
26.	Tiruvallur	8
27.	Thoothukudi	9
28.	Tiruppur	7
29.	Tirunelveli	14
30.	Vellore	16
31.	Villupuram	12
32.	Virudhunagar	8
Total		304

