



PUBLIC (REHABILITATION) DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE 2022 - 2023

DEMAND No. 38

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**Minister for Minorities Welfare and
Non-Resident Tamils Welfare**

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2022**

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WELFARE OF NON-RESIDENT TAMILS AND REHABILITATION

1. Introduction

The Department of Public and Rehabilitation is working for the Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils and takes care of the Rehabilitation of the Repatriates as well as the Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils. In order to execute the same, the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation has been established as per orders issued in the year 1969 to oversee the provision of relief and rehabilitation assistance to returnees from Burma, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

In this juncture, large number of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived in Tamil Nadu due to the ethnic riots in Sri Lanka in 1983, and the

department was entrusted with the relief work for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

The Tamils migrated to foreign countries for higher education and in search of employment for their livelihood. In order to protect, extend necessary help for such persons who migrated abroad, this subject was also entrusted to the department and the Commissionerate was renamed as Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils as per orders issued in the year 2010.

Currently, as per the Government's Vision Plan in order to cater to the welfare of Non-Resident Tamils, to provide assistance to the various affected persons there to provide basic assistance to the families of those who have died abroad and to support the livelihoods of Non-Resident Tamils living abroad these subjects were brought under the aegis of the Hon'ble Minister for Minority Welfare and Non-Resident

Tamils. Also, the Commissionerate has been renamed as "Commissionerate of Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils and Rehabilitation Department" (அயலகத் தமிழர் நலன் மற்றும் மறுவாழ்வுத்துறை ஆணையரகம்) as per orders issued in the year 2021.

2. Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils

Large number of Tamils migrates to foreign countries for higher education and in search of employment for their livelihood. This department plays a vital role to protect, extend necessary help for such persons who migrate abroad. Whenever distress calls are received from the emigrants or from their family members, this Department helps out in rescue / repatriation of the Non-Resident Tamils who are in distress / settlement of their claims from the foreign employer and also in bringing back the mortal remains of the Non-Resident Tamils who died

abroad in co-ordination with the Union Government and the respective Indian Missions abroad.

At the district level, District Collectors have been designated as "District Welfare Officer (Non-Resident Tamils)" and the section under the Magisterial Huzur Sarishtadar has been designated as "District Welfare Centre (Non-Resident Tamils)" and entrusted with the work.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has announced various projects which is being implemented for the Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils including formation of Welfare Board for Non-Resident Tamils.

2.1. Formation of Welfare Board for Non-Resident Tamils

On March 1, 2011, the State Government had enacted "The Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils Act" to enable creation of Welfare Board for the

Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils. The Act has been amended in 2022, and the creation of Welfare Board is under process. Further, the following activities as announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister will be executed by the Board.

- a) Creation of Data Base of Non-Resident Tamils, Issue of Identity card and Insurance scheme.
- b) Education/ Marriage assistance to the Non-Resident Tamil families having low income.
- c) Formation of Pre-Departure Orientation Centers in 7 districts namely Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Kanniyakumari, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Sivagangai and Villupuram apart from Chennai.

- d) Creation of Toll-free helpline, Website and App to give assistance to the Non-Resident Tamils.
- e) Formation of Legal cell to assist Non-Resident Tamils.

2.2. Other Welfare Schemes for Non-Resident Tamils

The following measures are also in progress as per the announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister for the Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils.

- a) Sanction of loans to the un-employed emigrants who have returned to enable them to start small enterprises.
- b) To facilitate safe investment for the Non-Resident Tamils in Tamil Nadu.
- c) To facilitate the Non-Resident Tamils to improve the basic amenities in their home

districts on education, Health etc., by “Thaiman” (“தாய்மண”) scheme.

2.3. Recognising the role of Tamil Diaspora and promoting Cultural and Intellectual Integration

As announced by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, it is decided to implement the following programmes by integrating and co-ordinating with Tamil Sangams across the World.

a) World Tamil Diaspora Day

As per the announcement of Hon’ble Chief Minister, January 12th of every year will be celebrated as the “World Tamil Diaspora Day”. This is to celebrate the contribution of the Tamil Diaspora to integrate the Tamils living in abroad and also to encourage them. It also aims to showcase the Tamil Heritage, Art, Literature and Culture and to bring it to the next generation.

For the year 2021-2022, due to covid pandemic, the celebration was done on January 12th in a hybrid mode with the theme of "Tamizhal Inaivom" ("தமிழால் இணைவோம்"). Hon'ble Chief Minister, various prominent Tamil Leaders including Provincial Governor, Papua New Guinea; Former Vice President, Republic of Mauritius; Chairman Labuan Port and Former Deputy Minister, Malaysia; Commissioner, Mary Land Transportation Commission & Former Deputy Secretary of State, U.S.A.; Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka; across the world participated and shared their views virtually on various topics of discussion in this programme. Apart from it, Art and Cultural shows were also held. An amount of Rs.41 lakh has been sanctioned and incurred by the Government of Tamil Nadu for this purpose.

- b) Teaching of Tamil language, Culture to the children living abroad and providing incentives and training to the teachers.
- c) Recognition of Tamil sangams/societies abroad and organizing art and cultural programmes and to conduct seminars.

2.4. Revolving Fund

An amount of Rs.1 crore has been sanctioned by Government as Revolving Fund for the following purposes and the same will be recouped by Government every year.

- a) Rescue / repatriation of the Tamils who live in abroad.
- b) Medical expenses for those who are in distress.
- c) Bringing back the mortal remains of the Non-Resident Tamils to Tamil Nadu in co-ordination with the Union

Government and with the respective Indian Embassies in abroad.

- d) During 2021-2022, arrangements were made to bring back 149 mortal remains from different countries and they were transported to their native places through free hearse service of Government of Tamil Nadu under the toll-free number (155377) and affected emigrants were rescued and repatriated to Tamil Nadu.

3. Students Evacuation from Ukraine

Due to war between Ukraine and Russia, more than 2000 students from Tamil Nadu who were pursuing medicine and other higher studies were stranded in Ukraine. As per the Hon'ble Chief Minister's instruction, a State Control Room was established immediately and the Commissioner of Rehabilitation was made as the Nodal Officer to co-ordinate the rescue of Tamil

Students from Ukraine with the Ministry of External Affairs. Similarly, Control Rooms were established under Resident Commissioner, Tamil Nadu House, New Delhi and at all the Collectorates. Toll-free lines were established and a website was opened for the students and families to lodge their grievance and provide the data to enable the state to co-ordinate the rescue operation.

Moreover, a high-level delegation with 3 Members of Parliament and 1 Member of Legislative Assembly and 4 I.A.S. officers were formed to co-ordinate the students return from the 4 neighbouring countries of Ukraine. All efforts were made to rescue the students even inside Ukraine and all transportation arrangements were made for their travel to their home from New Delhi. Totally, 1,890 students safely returned to their hometowns, out of which 1,524 students were through State Government

expenditure. An amount of Rs.3.50 crore has been sanctioned and Rs.3.26 crore has been incurred by the Government of Tamil Nadu for this purpose.

4. Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils Living in Rehabilitation Camps

As on 31.03.2022, 19,316 families consisting of 58,492 persons are staying in 108 Sri Lankan Tamil Rehabilitation camps (including two special camps in Tiruchirappalli and Ramanathapuram districts) located in 29 districts in the State. The Sri Lankan Tamils living in the Rehabilitation Camps are being provided with various relief measures like, accommodation, drinking water, electricity etc., at free of cost as per the guidelines, norms stipulated by the Union Government and the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

It is the endeavour of this Government to ensure that the Sri Lankan Tamils living in Rehabilitation Camps are enabled to lead a life with dignity, safety and security as announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 28.08.2021. Orders have been issued to change the nomenclature from "Sri Lankan Refugee camp" to "Sri Lankan Tamils Rehabilitation Camps".

4.1. Cash dole

As announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110 in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021, orders were issued enhancing the monthly cashdole at the following rates with an additional expenditure of Rs.21.29 crore per year to the State Government.

Sl. No.	Category	Old Amount (in Rs.)	Enhanced amount with effect from 1.9.2021 (in Rs.)
1.	Head of the Family	1000/-	1,500/-
2.	Each additional member (aged 12 years and above)	750/-	1,000/-
3.	Children (below 12 years)	400/-	500/-

4.2. Clothing

Sri Lankan Tamils staying in the Rehabilitation camps are being provided with free clothes every year and free blankets once in every two years through Co-optex. As the clothes and blankets could not be supplied at the rates fixed by the Union Government, Hon'ble Chief Minister on the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021 under Rule 110, announced the enhancement of the procurement rates for

2021-2022. The clothes have been purchased for Rs.4.52 crore from Co-optex and distributed to Sri Lankan Tamils accommodated in the Rehabilitation camps in Tamil Nadu.

4.3. Utensils

Sri Lankan Tamils staying in the Rehabilitation camps are to be provided with 8 types of cooking utensils worth Rs.250/- once in every two years at free of cost as per norms fixed by the Union Government. But as the rate was very low, they could not be supplied. Hence, as per the announcement of Hon'ble Chief Minister in the floor of Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 27.08.2021, orders were issued to increase the rate. The utensils has been purchased from M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd., Salem at a cost of Rs.1,285/- per set of 8 Stainless steel utensils and distributed to the Sri Lankan Tamils accommodated in the Rehabilitation Camps in the

financial year 2021-2022. The total expenditure incurred was Rs.2.42 crore.

4.4. Rice Subsidy

Each Sri Lankan Tamil adult and children under the age of 8 years living in the camps are provided with 12 kg and 6 kg of rice per month, respectively. Out of this, for every family the first 20 kg of rice was provided at free of cost and the extra rice was given at a cost of Rs.0.57 per kg. The Hon'ble Chief Minister in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021 under Rule 110 had announced that the entire rice supplied to them will be at free of cost and the additional expenditure of Rs.19 lakh will be borne by the State Government. Orders were issued accordingly. In addition to that, oil, sugar and all essential items are being supplied to the Sri Lankan Tamils under the Public Distribution System, at concessional rate.

4.5. Provision of free cooking gas stove and gas cylinder at subsidized price

Kerosene which is being supplied to the Sri Lankan Tamils living in camps is not sufficient. Further, it is very difficult for them to get the gas connection under existing scheme. Hence, as per the announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021 under Rule 110, orders were issued for providing free gas connection with Stove and accessories and single gas cylinder. Further, action has been taken to provide subsidy of Rs.400/- per cylinder, upto 5 cylinders per year. An amount of Rs.5.26 crore has been remitted to IOCL for providing free gas connections and gas stove. Also Rs.1.30 crore has been spent on providing subsidy to them.

4.6. Construction of Houses and upgrading the Basic amenities

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021 under Rule 110 that 7,469 new houses will be constructed for the Sri lankan Tamils living in the camps in phases and orders were issued. 3,510 new houses will be constructed in the 1st phase as 868 group houses ($868 \times 4 = 3,472$) to be constructed at a cost of Rs.173.60 crore and 38 individual houses at a cost of Rs.2.14 crore to the total cost of Rs.175.74 crore. This construction work is being done by concerned District Rural Development Agencies of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and the construction work is under progress.

The existing Sri Lankan Tamil camps at Adiyannuthu, Thottanuthu, Gopalpatti which are located at private lands in Dindigul District were merged into one camp and setup in a Government

Land at Thotanuthu Village. The new camp with 321 houses is being built at a cost of Rs.17.17 crore and the construction work is under progress.

Administrative approval has been accorded for Rs.30 crore for providing drinking water, toilet, electricity and drainage facilities in the camps. In this regard, as a first phase, Rs.10 crore has been sanctioned by the Government and necessary fund allotment is done to the districts so as to implement the same.

4.7. Sri Lankan Tamils Annual (Livelihood) Development Fund

As per the announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021 under Rule 110, Rs.5 crore has been sanctioned by Government for the provision of immediate repairing, and to take minor works in the camps in 29 districts as follows:-

Sl. No.	Item of work	Amount (Rs.)
1	Water Supply	74,51,250
2	Sanitation Facilities	1,95,94,800
3	Electricity Facilities	1,92,63,950
4	Repairs to Road	36,90,000
	Total	5,00,00,000

4.8. Educational Assistance

4.8.1. There are about 11,012 students studying upto class 12 in Sri Lankan Tamil Camps. The free education scheme is extended to them upto class 12. They are also provided with free uniforms, noon meals, books and free bus passes as in the case of other students of Tamil Nadu.

4.8.2. Sri Lankan Tamil Students are being admitted for higher studies in Arts and Science Colleges, Polytechnics, Universities based on the

merit through single window system under counselling in the general category.

4.8.3. As announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021 under Rule 110 orders has been issued to enhance the existing scholarship provided to them at the following rates:-

Sl. No.	Course	Educational Assistance (in Rupees)	Enhanced Educational Assistance (From 2021-2022) (in Rupees)
1.	Polytechnic	2,500/-	10,000/-
2.	Bachelor of Arts/Science	3,000/-	12,000/-
3.	Bachelor professional courses	5,000/-	20,000/-

An amount of Rs.1.53 crore has been released for educational assistance and at present 1,261 students are benefitted.

4.8.4. As announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110 on 27.08.2021 the total education fees and hostel fees for the first 50 students based on merit in respect of Engineering courses will be borne by the State Government. Similarly, in the case of first 5 students on merit who want to pursue Agriculture / Agriculture Engineering will be given full education fees and hostel fees. Apart from the above, in order to encourage the students to pursue Master's degree, the education fees and hostel fees for all the students will be met by the Government.

4.8.5. Further, upto five seats are allotted on need basis in each hostel run by the Backward Class, Most Backward Class and Minorities Welfare, Adi Dravidar & Tribal Welfare Departments for the Sri Lankan Tamil Students.

4.9. Social Development Schemes

4.9.1. Women Self-Help Groups

To improve the economic conditions and standard of living, Rs.50,000/- as Community Investment Fund was initially provided to 321 Women Self-Help Groups of the Sri Lankan Tamils living in the camps. Now, as per the announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110, an additional amount of Rs.75,000/- is provided to these Self-Help Groups. A total amount of Rs.2.40 crore has been released for the same.

Also, as per the announcement, Rs.1.25 lakh is to be sanctioned to newly formed 300 Self-Help Groups as Community Investment Fund. 260 new Self-Help Groups have been formed and Rs.3.25 crore has been sanctioned to the Women Development Corporation for allotting the same.

4.9.2. Social Security Pension and Relief

Monthly pension at the rate of Rs.1,000/- is being given under the Social Security Scheme to the Sri Lankan Tamils for various categories such as destitute widows, old aged persons, differently abled persons, deserted wives, un-married women living in camps. An amount of Rs.5,000/- is being provided to the family of the deceased in Rehabilitation Camps to meet out expenses on funeral rites. For the accidental death, an amount of Rs.50,000/- and for major surgery an amount of Rs.15,000/- is being given from the Chief Minister's Sri Lankan Tamils Special Relief Fund.

4.9.3. Further, the State Government has already extended all welfare schemes being offered to the people of Tamil Nadu to the Sri Lankan Tamils residing in camps also with effect from 20.11.2009.

4.10. Skill Development Training

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021 under Rule 110 that Skill Development Training along with Employment opportunities will be given to 5,000 Sri Lankan Tamil youths to improve the livelihood and employment of the Sri Lankan Tamils staying in the Rehabilitation Camps. In this regard awareness programme has been conducted by the Skill Development Department in the camps at the Districts and various trainings has started for 3,289 persons.

4.11. Reimbursement of Expenditure

The Tamil Nadu Government has incurred total expenditure of Rs.124.61 crore for the financial year 2020-2021 as relief assistance to Sri Lankan Tamils in the camps. Out of the Union Government's contribution Rs.67.07 crore, an amount of Rs.41.31 crore has been reimbursed

from the Union Government to the State Government.

For the financial year 2021-2022, the State Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs.91.8 crore for first 3 quarters upto December 2021 and proposal has been sent to Government of India for reimbursement of Rs.49.48 crore. The Government of India has reimbursed an amount of Rs.27.75 crore for 2 quarters and partial amount of Rs.5.18 crore for 3rd Quarter.

5. Welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils living outside the Camp

As on 31.03.2022, 13,420 families with 33,639 Sri Lankan Tamils have been registered with the local police station in Tamil Nadu and allowed to live outside the camp. The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Insurance Scheme has been extended to them. They were also provided Rs.4,000/- covid relief fund.

6. Advisory Committee for long term Solutions

As per the Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement in the floor of Legislative Assembly on 27.08.2021 under Rule 110, orders have been issued for formation of an Advisory committee to explore solutions and to address the challenges being encountered by the Sri Lankan Tamils both in and outside the camp. It also envisages to explore the possibility of citizenship to help the Sri Lankan Tamils to return to Sri Lanka on their own accord and to propose action plan for the Government of Tamil Nadu. The first Advisory Committee meeting was held on 29.12.2021.

7. Voluntary Repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamils on their own willing

The District Collectors concerned issue Exit Permits to the Sri Lankan Tamils who are willing to go back to Sri Lanka on their own accord. With

the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 18,014 Sri Lankan Tamils returned to Sri Lanka from 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2022.

7.1. Waiver of Penalties for the Overstay Period

While the Union Government has considerably increased the Visa Fees and the Overstay Penalty in respect of Sri Lankan Tamils, few Sri Lankan Tamils could not afford to pay such large amount and return to Sri Lanka. Based on the clearance given by the Union Government to the State Government, waiving off Visa Fees and Overstay Penalty, item wise is done on the receipt of applications of those Sri Lankan Tamils who are willing to go back to Sri Lanka on their own accord. As on 31.03.2022, 1,597 Sri Lankan Tamils belonging to 835 families have benefitted under this scheme.

8. Special Camp

At present there is a special camp each in Tiruchirappalli and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu. In this camp, accommodation is given to the Sri Lankan Tamils who have Criminal background/under investigation or on bail. As on 31.03.2022, 108 Sri Lankan Tamils have been lodged in this special camp under section 3(2)(e) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. As their movements in the special camps are restricted within the camp, they are provided with cooked food at the rate of Rs.175/- per day.

9. Arrival of Sri Lankan Tamils due to Economic Crisis

9.1. Due to the severe economic crisis and food shortage in Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan Tamils started coming to Tamil Nadu by sea from 22.03.2022. These Sri Lankan Tamils are allowed to stay in the houses in Mandapam camp after

being interrogated by the police on humanitarian grounds. As on 29.04.2022 75 persons (i.e. 25 men, 23 women, 13 boys and 14 girls) from 24 families are staying in the Mandapam camp. They are being provided cooked food at the rate of Rs.175/- per person per day. They are also provided with 22 essential items including clothes, mats and blankets.

9.2. Announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to Relief assistance to Sri Lanka.

In order to assist the Sri Lankans who are reeling under severe economic crisis the Hon'ble Chief Minister has stated that the State Government is willing to provide immediate relief assistance to the tune of 40,000 tonnes of rice at a cost of Rs.80 crore, 137 varieties of medicines at a cost of Rs.28 crore and 500 tonnes of milk products at a cost of Rs.15 crore from Tamil Nadu. To this effect a special resolution has

been passed unanimously in the State Legislative Assembly requesting the Union Government to provide necessary permission to provide relief assistance to Sri Lanka, immediately.

10. Rehabilitation of Repatriates

The Tamil Nadu Government had initially established this department for the welfare of Tamil Repatriates who returned to their mother land from Sri Lanka, Burma, Vietnam for the betterment of their livelihood.

4,61,639 persons of Indian origin from Sri Lanka, 1,44,445 persons from Burma and 2,055 persons from Vietnam were repatriated to India. Among them, most of the repatriates have settled in Tamil Nadu and others in Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been providing many welfare schemes for the repatriates.

10.1. Houses

In 2018-2019, orders were issued for the construction of 1,000 houses in rural areas under the “Solar Powered Green Houses” Scheme of which 869 houses were constructed so far. The balance 131 houses are in different stages of completion. In 2019-2020, under the scheme of “Housing for All”, 500 houses have been allotted for the repatriates residing in Town Panchayats and Urban areas. Of these, administrative sanction has been accorded for 413 houses and 35 houses have been completed through Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board. The balance houses are in different stages of construction.

10.2. Repatriates Co-operative Bank (REPCO Bank)

The Repatriates Co-operative Finance & Development Bank Ltd., Chennai shortly known as

REPCO Bank was established by Union Government with share capital of Union Government, five Southern States Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka and Repatriates for the purpose of rehabilitation of repatriates from Sri Lanka, Burma, Vietnam and other countries.

The Bank was registered under Madras Co-operative Societies Act, 53 of 1961 on 09.09.1969. The operations of the Bank were commenced on 19.11.1969. The Bank is under the registration of Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies (CRCS) Act, 2002 and the administrative control of FFR section of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union Government. Presently, the area of operation of the Bank covers the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry with a network of 108 branches.

The share-holding pattern of the Bank as on 31.03.2022 are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Share Holders	Share Capital Amount (Rs. in lakh)	% of Share Holding
1	Union Government	7,632.00	50.03
2	Government of Tamil Nadu	713.00	4.67
3	Government of Andhra	104.77	0.69
4	Government of Telangana	74.88	0.49
5	Government of Kerala	61.16	0.40
6	Government of Karnataka	17.47	0.11
7	Individual Members	6,650.67	43.61
	Total	15,253.95	100.00

In the earlier days, repatriates have been settled in tea and rubber estates for rehabilitation. The Government of Tamil Nadu has implemented various schemes for their

employment in spinning mills and industrial units with the assistance of this Bank.

Presently, the Bank has been implementing various welfare measures for the Repatriates, viz., Education Aid, Medical Aid, Loan Schemes at lower interest rates, Life Insurance Scheme, Solatium for deceased repatriates, free higher education to 10 repatriate children every year, water purifier machines in schools for the repatriate children, renovation of dilapidated houses, donation of chairs for differently abled repatriates, etc. So far, more than 1,00,000 beneficiaries have benefitted in the schemes.

The following table shows the details of assistance provided by this Co-operative Bank for the repatriates.

Sl. No.	Year	Financial Assistance (Rs. in lakh)
1	2016-17	470.00
2	2017-18	484.00
3	2018-19	618.00
4	2019-20	720.00
5	2020-21	475.00
6	2021-22	905.00

10.3. Construction of houses under Repco Home Finance CSR fund

REPCO home finance Ltd., is a subsidiary company of Repco bank and under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding 70 houses have been constructed at a project cost of Rs.3 crore. The project has been taken up in Karakolly, Nilgiris District for the repatriates who were employees in TANTEA and retired. These employees on their retirement were left with no homes and so, the houses constructed under this scheme have been allotted to them.

11. Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited

Every Year, Tamilians are migrating from Tamil Nadu to various countries for Overseas Employment. To recruit candidates for Overseas Employment there are 1,668 Recruiting Agencies (RAs) functioning in India and 133 Recruiting Agencies are functioning in Tamil Nadu.

Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited **(OMCL)** was established in 1978, as a Tamil Nadu Government Undertaking to protect foreign workers from the exploitation of unscrupulous recruiting agencies and to recruit candidates at a lower cost.

Presently, OMCL is functioning under the administrative control of Public Department.

OMCL is registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956. It is also registered under the Indian Emigration Act, 1983, functioning as recruiting agency with the license issued by

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to deploy candidates for overseas employment.

11.1 Capital

The Paid up share capital of the Corporation is Rs.15.00 lakh and the Authorized share capital is Rs.50.00 lakh.

11.2 Board of Directors

- a. The Board of Directors of the Corporation was constituted on 30.11.1978.
- b. The General Powers for the Board of Directors was given as per clause 76 of the Memorandum of Articles of Association vide registration No.7600 (1978).
- c. The business of the Corporation is governed by the Board of Directors. The Income and expenditure of the Corporation is reviewed and finalized by the Board of Directors in the Annual General Meeting.

- d. If any Changes / Modification in the Policies and activities of the Corporation must be approved by the Board of Directors as per clause 76.

11.3 Objective

The main objective of the organization is to provide skilled manpower from the State of Tamil Nadu to various countries to improve their livelihoods.

11.4 (a) Registration

- (i) A website (URL: <https://www.omcmanpower.com>) has been executed for overseas job seekers to register themselves for the overseas jobs.
- (ii) The particulars registered in this website is valid for 4 years. The interested registrants will renew their registration at the end of the 4th year.

(iii) As on 31.03.2022, 5,585 candidates have been registered for overseas employment.

11.4 (b) The Registration fees collected from the registrants as follows:

Category	Registration Fee and GST @ 18%
From 10 th std to Under Graduates (Arts/Science/Mathematics)	Rs.750/-
Post Graduates / Professional, Staff Nurses and other Paramedical Personnel	Rs.1,200/-
Doctors (BDS/MDS/MBBS and Above)	Rs.2,000/-
Renewal Charges	Rs.120/-

11.5 The functions of the Corporation as follows:

- a. To conduct awareness-cum-registration camp to register candidates desirous of overseas employment.
- b. To arrange Interviews on behalf of Foreign Employers and sponsor candidates registered with OMCL for interview and selection.
- c. To assist candidates selected for overseas employment for documents' attestation, Visa Stamping, etc.,
- d. To arrange travel to the selected employees to reach the destination country.

11.6 Procedures of Overseas Employment

a) Obtaining Vacancy Requirements

The requirement received from the Foreign Employers for the Overseas Recruitment will be executed by the recognized Recruiting

Agencies in India. The foreign employer will raise the demand with complete details of the requirements as and when the need arises and send to the Recruiting Agencies for Overseas Employment.

Foreign employers should register in www.emigrate.gov.in to recruit Indian workers for Overseas Employment. The Demand Letter and the Power of Attorney has to be generated through this website.

b) Issuance of Countries Specific Orders

The Demand raised for Nurses has been uploaded in the e-migrate website (www.emigrate.gov.in). This will be reviewed by the Protector General of Emigrates, Ministry of External Affairs and a Country Specific order will be issued in this regard.

c) Website for Online Registration

Overseas job seekers can register their details in OMCL website www.omcmanpower.com by payment of applicable fees.

d) Selection of Qualified Employees

Once the demand is verified through e-Migrate website, the human resource team initialize the sourcing and screening of eligible candidates as per job description provided by Foreign Employer. OMCL will utilize the best sources of recruitment like OMCL database / Employment Portal and published advertisement by attracting and motivating them to apply for the job in order to identify the talented candidates.

e) Interview

Shortlisted Applicants will be admitted for interview. The date and time will be decided after the consultation with the foreign employer. Accordingly, interview is conducted after getting approval from the e-migrate website www.emigrate.gov.in. If the foreign employer wishes to conduct interview through online, it will be conducted, accordingly.

f) Attestation of certificates

Candidates selected through interview are instructed to get attestation in their educational and experience certificates at Human Resources Department in the States and relevant Embassies in India.

g) Medical Fitness Certificate

Selected Candidates who have successfully completed the certificate of attestation process should obtain medical fitness certificate from the authorized medical centres.

h) Visa Process

Foreign Employer will obtain Employment visa for the candidates who have been declared medically fit and submit the same to Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited.

i) Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT)

After stamping the visas for the selected candidates, emigration clearance and Pre-departure orientation training (PDOT) will be arranged by the Recruitment division. In the PDOT training, Language, Culture and

other activities will be given to the selected candidates through the Government recognized PDOT centers such as Model Carrier Centre (MCC).

j) Travel Arrangements

As per the instructions and guidance of Foreign Employer, OMCL has been making necessary arrangements for travel documents such as visa and Air Ticket to the selected candidates.

11.7 Deployment

a) Overseas Deployment

Since its inception in 1978, OMCL has placed 10,538 candidates in overseas employment. During the financial year 2021-22, the Corporation has facilitated overseas placement for 253 persons in various countries viz. England, Saudi Arabia,

Kuwait, UAE, Oman and Bahrain. OMCL collect maximum amount of Rs.35,400/- (inclusive of 18%@GST) towards Service charge as fixed by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India from the candidates who are being employed to overseas nations through OMCL.

b) Domestic Deployment

OMCL has placed 609 persons through outsourcing in various jobs in various Government Departments on contract basis.

11.8 Revenue

During the Financial Year 2021-2022, OMCL has earned Rs.1.53 crore as Gross revenue and Rs.31.57 lakh as profit (unaudited).

11.9 New initiatives

- i) In order to give more employment opportunities in England to staff nurses in

Tamil Nadu, OMCL has Signed MOU with 10 nursing colleges and started OET training programme for final year nursing students by empanelled OET training institutions of Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC). For this training Rs.87.50 lakh has been allotted by the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), a Government of Tamil Nadu Corporation.

ii) The Corporation is in the process of creating a Mobile App facility for registration purpose for the overseas job seekers.

iii) OMCL has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s. Kuwait Gate Foundation, Kuwait on 17.11.2021 for the recruitment of Housemaids to Kuwait.

12. Conclusion

Under the dynamic leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Public and Rehabilitation

Department has been specially fulfilled its duty to protect the Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils and to provide relief to Sri Lankan Tamils and Repatriates.

The Sri Lankan Tamils have been provided with adequate basic amenities in their camps such as houses, drinking water and electricity to ensure a dignified, safe and improved life in Tamil Nadu and all measures have been taken to improve their education and livelihood.

Moreover efforts have been initiated to protect the Non-Resident Tamils who have gone abroad for education, employment, trade and commerce and to preserve the antiquity of Tamil Language, History, Art, Literature and to pass it on to the next generation.

**GINGEE K.S. MASTHAN,
Minister for Minorities Welfare and
Non-Resident Tamils Welfare.**

