



**DEPARTMENT
FOR
THE WELFARE OF
DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS**

**POLICY NOTE
2016-2017**

DEMAND No.52

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PROGRAMME**

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2016**

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INTRODUCTION

The Department for the welfare of differently abled has been implementing a number of schemes towards the welfare and all round development of the differently abled persons. The ultimate vision of the Government of Tamil Nadu is to create a society wherein the differently abled persons are treated as equal partners. Towards realizing this vision the State Government created a separate Directorate for the differently abled in 1993 and came out with a comprehensive State Policy for the differently abled in 1994.

As per Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities who constitute 2.21% of the total population of the country. In Tamil Nadu

State 11.79 lakh disabled persons have been identified.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING WELFARE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

The concept of human rights is based on the belief that every human being is entitled to enjoy rights without discrimination. The rights of the differently abled persons who form a substantial part of the human society, need to be protected and enhanced in all possible manner.

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, The National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act 1999, The Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1995, The Mental Health Act 1987 are the major Acts which seek to protect the Rights and well being of the differently abled persons.

3. ISSUE OF DISABILITY CERTIFICATES

The differently abled persons are provided with various assistances based on their disability and age. For this purpose, all the eligible persons are provided identification cards with disability certificate.

The Government have simplified the procedure by amending the Tamil Nadu Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 2002, which permits doctors working in the Government Hospitals, Government Primary Health Centres, Government Institutions and Local Hospitals to issue a disability certificate to the eligible persons.

The authorized Medical authority to issue different types of disability certificates are as follows:

S. No.	Type of disability	“Medical Authority” for the Purpose of the issue of disability certificate	Person to issue certificate of disability
1	Locomotor disability due to amputation or complete permanent paralysis of limbs	Hospitals/Institutions/ Primary Health Centres run by Government/ Local bodies.	Any medical practitioner working in the Hospitals/ Institutions/Primary Health Centres run by the Government / Local bodies.
2	Multiple Disability	District Hospital / Other Hospitals / institutions run by the State Government / Local Bodies having relevant medical specialists and testing facilities.	Medical Board consisting of three members of whom one will be specialist dealing with the relevant disabilities.
3	Disabilities not mentioned at serial number 1 & 2 above	Hospitals / Primary Health Centres/ Institutions run by Government / Local Bodies.	A specialist dealing with the relevant disability as specified in the table given below.

The Specialist who may issue disability certificate for the persons with disabilities mentioned at serial number 3 above is as follows:

S. No.	Category	Specialist
1	Cerebral Palsy	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation or Orthopaedics or Paediatrician or Paediatric / Neurologist or Psychiatrist
2	Hearing Impairment	Specialist in the field of E.N.T.
3	Leprosy cured person	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation or Orthopaedics or Dermatologist
4	Locomotor disability other than amputation or complete permanent paralysis of limbs	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation or Orthopaedics
5	Mental Illness	Psychiatrist
6	Mental Retardation	Children with mental retardation below the age of 12 years – paediatrician or paediatric Neurologist or psychiatrist. For adults, above the age group of 12 years – Psychiatrist.

7	Low Vision / Blindness	Specialist in the field of Ophthalmology.
8	Autism	Autism certificate Medical Board 1. Clinical Psychologist / Rehabilitation psychologist 2. A psychologist 3. A paediatrician or general physician, as the case may be

4. ISSUE OF NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD AND PASS BOOK

The differently abled persons having disability certificate with 40 percentage of disability and above may approach the respective District Differently Abled Welfare Office for registration. The District Differently Abled Welfare Officer after due verification issues a National Identity Card with a pass book.

So far, 11,49,352 (as on 30.06.2016) disability certificates and National identity cards have been issued to the differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu, which works out to 97.5%. Tamil Nadu is No.1 amongst major states in issuing disability certificate.

5. RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN SERVING THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS.

a) Recognition of Special Schools for Differently Abled students

Special Schools functioning under the control of the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled are accorded recognition and renewal as per the Tamil Nadu Recognized Private Schools Regulation Act, 1973. As many as 415 Special Schools have been granted recognition so far.

(b) Registration of Institutions for Differently Abled Persons

As per the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the State Commissioner for the differently abled is the only competent authority to accord, renew and revoke the Certificate of Registration of any institution serving the differently abled persons in Tamilnadu. So far, 156 institutions for differently

abled persons have obtained Certificate of Registration.

(c) Registration of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre

As per the Tamil Nadu Registration of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centres of Mentally Ill Persons Rules 2002, it is mandatory for any institution serving for the differently abled persons to obtain a certificate of registration . These rules prevent any unauthorized establishment of such centre and ensure standard facilities and services.

6. EARLY INTERVENTION

Experts believe that majority of the disabilities can be prevented if adequate care is taken at the early stage of its occurrence. Creating awareness regarding measures to be taken during the period of pregnancy and thereafter is one of the intervention measures being done. Besides physical rehabilitation,

counseling services, training and medical intervention are also provided. For this purpose the State Government have established Early Diagnostic Centres, Early Intervention Centres and Mobile Therapy units to reach the people in all parts of the State.

7. EARLY DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN

In order to detect hearing loss in new born babies and to provide early intervention programmes, Early Diagnostic Centres for hearing impaired have been established in 28 districts. Approximately, 6000 babies/infants have been screened in these centres.

8. EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN

To facilitate the early intervention services to children with disabilities, Government of Tamil Nadu has established Early Intervention Centres at the district level. Children with disability attending these centres along with an escort are

allowed to travel free of cost in State Transport Corporation buses from their residence to the Early Intervention Centre and back. Special Educators working in these Early Intervention Centres are given as honorarium of Rs.10,000/- per month.

(a) Early Intervention Centres for The Hearing Impaired Children

Early Intervention Centres for Infants and Young children with Hearing Impairment have been established with the aim to provide intensive intervention services and training to young babies with hearing loss to enable them to develop their speech, language and communication skills on par with the other children. Children under the age of 2½ years having hearing loss and without any additional disabilities are admitted in these Centres. These centres prepare children with hearing impairment for inclusion into regular school by the time they attain 6 years of age. These centres are established in 29 Districts and

are managed by the reputed NGOs. Parent training is a vital part of this programme. 699 children with hearing impairment in the age group of 0-3 years have been admitted in these centres. Every year orientation training is provided to Special Educators working in these centres to update their knowledge and skills.

A sum of Rs.87.10 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(b) Early Intervention Centres for Mentally Retarded

With the aim to provide training to children, parent/ care giver and families to maximize the child's daily living skills, socialization, cognitive and communication skills etc., Early Intervention Centres for Children with Mental Retardation in the age group of 0-6 years have been established in 31 districts through Non Governmental Organisations. 1539 mentally retarded children are attending these centres. Special educators of

Early Intervention Centres for the mentally retarded children are given refresher course periodically.

A sum of Rs.212.04 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(c) Early Intervention Centres for Visually Impaired Children

In order to render early intervention services to children with Visual Impairment, Early Intervention Centres for Visually Impaired have been established in 7 districts namely Trichy, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Chennai, Salem, Vellore and Tiruvannamalai which are managed by reputed NGOs. This scheme is benefiting 125 Visually Impaired Children in the age group of 0-6 years.

A sum of Rs.28.26 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(d) Early Intervention Centre for children with Cerebral Palsy at Trichy

An exclusive centres for children with Cerebral Palsy has been established at Trichy which is managed by a reputed NGO. An interdisciplinary team consisting of Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist and Special Educators provide Early Stimulation Programme for children between 0 and 6 years of age. 50 children with Cerebral Palsy attend this centre on an average.

A sum of Rs.7.02 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(e) Early Intervention Centre for children with Autism

To effectively combat the incidence of Autism, there is need for Early Intervention. Early Intervention programme emphasizes attending to social stimuli, imitation skills, language

comprehension and usage, appropriate play skills etc., One centre each has been established in Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari. Totally, 40 children attend these centres.

A sum of Rs.2.82 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(f) Provision of Weaning Food and Supplementary Nutritious Food to children in Early Intervention Centres

Children with disabilities in the Early Intervention Centres are provided with nutritious meal as being provided in the Anganwadi centres of Integrated Child Development Programme. Transport charges are paid to implementing NGOs to bring food from nearby Anganwadi centres. As many as, 2500 children with disabilities in 68 Early Intervention Centres are benefitted under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.4.15 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

9. STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE AT CHENNAI

The State Resource cum Training Centre, Chennai, was started in the year 2005, with the aim to provide specialized services and information under one roof to all categories of differently abled persons. Besides Disability Certificate, Railway concession, Concessions for Government Examinations and Concession of 75% for bus travel with escort etc. are issued to differently abled persons at this centre. Moreover, Early Intervention Centres for the hearing impaired, cerebral Palsy, autism, mentally retarded and sensory integration unit have been established at this centre. Children with disabilities in the age group of 0-5 years are admitted in these Centres. Various Training programmes are also organised at this centre.

A sum of Rs.27.10 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

10. REGIONAL STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE AT TRICHY

In order to cater to the needs of differently abled persons hailing from the southern districts, a Regional State Resource cum Training Centre has been established at Trichy. This centre is managed jointly by District Differently Abled Welfare Office, Trichy and NGOs. In this centre, Disability Certificates and National Identity Cards are issued. This centre also houses Early Intervention Centres for Children with Autism and Multiple Disability, Sensory Integration Unit, Day Care Centre for Mentally Ill Persons. Counseling and Guidance is also provided at the centre.

A sum of Rs.9.81 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

11. HOMES FOR MENTALLY ILL PERSONS

In order to provide shelter, food, medical facilities etc. to the mentally ill person, adequate infrastructure has been created. In all 32 districts, Homes for Mentally Ill has been established. Each home can accommodate 50 inmates. Totally 1385 mentally ill persons are being rehabilitated in these homes.

A sum of Rs.286.58 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

12. SPECIAL SCHOOL

Keeping in mind the specific requirement of the differently abled children, State Government has set up special schools. In all 77 Government and Government Aided Special Schools have been set up across the State. This includes 23 Government special schools (10 for Visually Impaired, 11 for Hearing Impaired and 1 for Severely Locomotor Disabled and 1 for Mentally

Retarded). 54 Government aided special schools are managed by Non Governmental Organizations.

These 23 Government Special Schools include 5 Higher Secondary Schools – 3 for Visually Impaired at Poonamalle (Boys), Trichy (Girls) and Thanjavur and 2 Schools for Hearing Impaired at Dharmapuri and Thanjavur.

The students studying in the Government special schools are given boarding and lodging facilities free of cost. Sports materials and various learning materials have been provided to these Special Schools. Students studying in these Government special schools are also taken out for educational study tour once in a year.

Aided Schools are supported with financial assistance by the State Government. In 2012-2013, the Government enhanced the feeding grant from Rs.450/- to Rs.650/- per student per month. Since 2015-2016, the day scholars are also given noon-meal on par with other children.

A sum of Rs.333.75 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

13. SCHOLARSHIP AND READERS ALLOWANCE

(a) Scholarship

Scholarship to the students is provided depending on their level of education with the prime intention of motivating the students to pursue higher education. The Government have enhanced the scholarship amount with effect from 2013-2014 as follows:-

Sl. No.	Standard	Amount per student per annum
(1)	I Std. to V Std.	Rs.1,000/-
(2)	VI Std. to VIII Std.	Rs.3,000/
(3)	IX Std. to XII Std.	Rs.4,000/-
(4)	U.G. Courses	Rs.6,000/-
(5)	Professional and P.G. Courses	Rs.7,000/-

A sum of Rs.700.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(b) Readers Allowance

In order to help the visually impaired students, Government have been providing Readers Allowance to the students from 9th Standard upto Post-Graduation level. During the year 2013-2014, the Government have doubled the Readers Allowance as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Standard	Readers Allowance per student per annum
1.	9 th Std. to 12 th Std.	Rs. 3,000/-
2.	UG Courses	Rs. 5,000/-
3.	Professional and P.G. Courses	Rs. 6,000/-

A sum of Rs.51.69 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

14. SCRIBE ASSISTANCE

Visually Impaired students studying from 9th to 12th Standard are provided with scribe

assistance to write their examinations. From 2015-2016 scribe assistance has been enhanced from Rs.250/- to Rs.300/-. About 500 students studying in the following 6 special schools are benefitted under this scheme every year:

- (1) The Government Higher Secondary School for Visually Impaired, Poonamallee.
- (2) The Government Higher Secondary School for Visually Impaired, Tiruchirappalli.
- (3) The Government Higher Secondary School for Visually Impaired, Thanjavur.
- (4) The Little Flower Convent Higher Secondary School for Visually Impaired, Chennai.
- (5) St. Louis Institute for Visually Impaired, Chennai.
- (6) The Indian Association for Visually Impaired Higher Secondary School, Madurai.

A sum of Rs.32.84 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

15. UNIFORM TO THE STUDENTS STUDYING IN GOVERNMENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS

The differently abled students studying in the Government special schools are provided with uniform free of cost. The number of uniforms provided has been increased from two sets to four sets from the year 2012-2013. 1382 students were given uniform sets under this scheme in the year 2015-2016. Besides free textbooks are also supplied to the students in Government and Government aided special schools.

A sum of Rs.13.96 lakhs has been provided for uniform and Rs.0.95 lakhs for free text books in the Budget Estimate for 2016-2017 for this scheme.

16. PROVIDING DVD PLAYERS TO FACILITATE EDUCATION OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS

In order to meet the growing educational needs of the visually impaired students, particularly students studying from 10th & 12th

Standard at Government Special Schools for the Visually Impaired at Tiruchirappali, Poonamallee and Thanjavur, lessons in various subjects are provided in DVDs with incidental accessories such as Head Phones and DVD Players. 108 students have been benefitted during the year 2015-2016.

A sum of Rs.7.12 lakhs have been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017.

17. LAPTOP TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS

Laptops are given to the Visually Impaired and the Hearing Impaired students studying in 12th Standard in the Government / Government Aided Special Schools free of cost. As many as 1506 students have received Laptops under the scheme during the last two years.

18. CASH INCENTIVE SCHEME TO PREVENT DROP OUTS FROM SCHOOLS

In order to prevent drop out, cash incentives are provided to the differently abled students

studying in 10th to 12th Standard in Government and Government-aided special schools. 1273 students benefitted under this scheme during the year 2015-2016.

Sl. No.	Standard	Cash Incentive per annum
1	10 th Standard	Rs.1,500/-
2	11 th Standard	Rs.1,500/-
3	12 th Standard	Rs.2,000/-

A sum of Rs.20.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

19. CASH PRIZE TO TOP THREE RANK HOLDERS IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Visually impaired and hearing Impaired students of 10th and 12th Standard, securing top 3 ranks at the State and district level in the Government public examinations are awarded with cash prizes. Since 2012-2013, the cash prizes to first three State rank holders have been enhanced. Besides, the rank holders are also

awarded with a package of Cash Prizes to pursue higher education detailed below:

State Level Rank	Visually Impaired		Hearing Impaired	
	10 th Std	12 th Std	10 th Std	12 th Std
I	Rs.25,000/-	Rs.50,000/-	Rs.25,000/-	Rs.50,000/-
II	Rs.20,000/-	Rs.30,000/-	Rs.20,000/-	Rs.30,000/-
III	Rs.15,000/-	Rs.20,000/-	Rs.15,000/-	Rs.20,000/-
District Level Rank				
I	Rs.6,000/-	Rs.12,000/-	Rs.6,000/-	Rs.12,000/-
II	Rs.4,500/-	Rs.7,500/-	Rs.4,500/-	Rs.7,500/-
III	Rs.3,000/-	Rs.4,500/-	Rs.3,000/-	Rs.4,500/-
Assistance for Higher Education	Visually Impaired		Hearing Impaired	
To pursue higher education	Rs.1,500/-	Rs.3,000/-	--	--
To purchase books (Braille Books for Visually Impaired)	Rs.3,000/-	Rs.4,000/-	Rs.1,000/-	Rs.3,000/-
To meet Hostel expenses	Rs.2,000/-	Rs.3,000/-	Rs.1,000/-	Rs.1,000/-

A sum of Rs.87.75 lakhs (Rs.58.72 Lakhs for Visually Impaired + Rs.29.03 lakhs for Hearing Impaired) was spent for both these categories during the year 2015-2016.

A sum of Rs.87.75 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

20. B.COM., AND B.C.A., COURSES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS

B.Com and B.C.A Courses were started by the Government exclusively for the Hearing Impaired students in the Presidency College at Chennai. 15 Students are admitted in each course every year. This enables the differently abled students with hearing impairment to pursue graduate courses in applied subjects.

A sum of Rs.4.57 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

21. ASSISTANCE TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED LAW GRADUATES

Differently abled Law Graduates are given financial assistance of Rs.3,000/- each for enrolment in Bar Council as Lawyers and for purchase of law books. A maximum of 15 Law

Graduates can avail benefit under this scheme every year.

A sum of Rs.0.45 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

22. SALARY GRANT TO SPECIAL EDUCATORS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND HEARING IMPAIRED

Special educators working in the Government recognized special schools for the Hearing Impaired and Visually Impaired, are provided monthly salary at Rs.10,000/- each per month for 12 months.

A sum of Rs.176.40 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

23. TRAINING

In order to ensure employment of the differently abled persons, the State Government

is taking all measures to develop appropriate skills amongst them.

To equip them with required skills, following Training Programmes for the differently abled persons are organized by the department free of cost.

(a) Multimedia and Digital Photography Training to the Differently Abled Persons

There is a great demand for the Multimedia Training Persons in the entertainment industry like television, broadcasting and advertisement. Accordingly Government have tied up with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) to provide multimedia training to the differently abled persons who aspire to join this field. One month training in Multimedia and Digital Photography is given to the locomotar differently abled persons and hearing impaired persons at the NFDC Ltd., Chennai. Stipend of Rs.1000/- is given to the trainees, in addition, training cost and boarding cost of Rs.12,500/- per trainee is

sanctioned by the Government. On completion of the training, the trained differently abled persons get placement in the entertainment industry. During the year 2015-2016 Rs. 21.00 lakhs has been utilised and 200 differently abled persons were benefitted.

(b) Fitter Training for the Hearing Impaired Persons

The Hearing Impaired Persons are imparted training in "Fitter" trade in the special training wing at the Government I.T.I., Guindy. This training is provided for a period of 2 years with a stipend of Rs.300/- per month. 21 differently abled persons are presently undergoing the training programme.

A sum of Rs.43.54 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

24. ENSURING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS THROUGH RESERVATION

The Government is committed to provide 3 percent job reservation for the differently abled in Government Departments / Government Undertakings and other Government Agencies. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government with Secretaries of various departments as members has been constituted to oversee the implementation of 3 percent reservation in all Government Departments / Undertakings. The Committee has been monitoring the implementation of 3 per cent reservation on a regular basis. The last meeting of the Committee was held on 20.07.2016.

Orders have also been issued by the Government to carry forward the vacancies earmarked for the differently abled persons which could not be filled up due to non-availability of differently abled persons in the particular

recruitment year for the subsequent period of 3 years.

As envisaged in The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, the State Government have also identified suitable posts for the differently abled persons in Group "A" and "B" Categories. In G.O. (Ms.) No.13, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 02.03.2016, orders have been issued identifying 263 posts in Group "A" and "B" categories for the differently abled persons.

Besides in G.O. (Ms) No.10, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 04.03.2014, orders have been issued to fill-up the 1928 backlog vacancies identified in various departments relating to the differently abled persons. Majority of these backlog vacancies have been filled up as on date.

25. MICRO ENTERPRISES AND BUNK STALLS

In order to provide self-employment opportunity for the differently abled persons, the Government is implementing Micro Enterprises and Bunk stalls scheme. The differently abled persons are motivated to start self-employment venture by availing bank loan assistance through the Nationalised Banks. The Government is releasing subsidy of Rs.10,000/- or one third of the loan sanctioned amount, whichever is less to the Nationalised Banks. 1200 differently abled persons have benefited under this scheme and Rs. 1.20 crore utilized during the year 2015 - 2016.

A sum of Rs.80.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

26. PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME

As part of economic upliftment of the differently abled persons, the Government is

providing grant towards 5% share amount to be paid by the differently abled persons as margin money availing loan under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme. During the year 2015-2016, 22 differently abled persons benefitted at a cost of Rs. 5.00 Lakhs under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.5.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

27. NHFDC ASSISTED SELF-EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

With a view to provide financial assistance for wide range of income generating activities, the State Government has launched the scheme of interest - free loan under National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) scheme, Government of India. The Tamil Nadu State Central Co-operative Bank has been identified as the implementing agency and appointed as State channelizing agency of NHFDC

for providing self-employment loan to the differently abled. Applications are received by the Co-operative Banks are scrutinised and sanctioned loan. The interest component is fully borne by the State Government. During the year 2015-2016, the scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs.19.18 Crore and 5100 differently abled persons were benefited.

28. UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

The differently abled persons in the age group of 18-40 years are eligible for getting the unemployment allowance. The State Government is giving unemployment allowance to the differently abled persons based on their educational qualification as indicated below:

Sl. No.	Educational Qualification	Unemployment Allowance per month
1.	Upto 10th std.	Rs.600/-
2.	H.S.C.,	Rs.750/-
3.	Graduates / Post Graduates	Rs.1000/-

To avail the benefit under this scheme, the unemployed differently abled person should have been in the live register of employment exchange for a minimum period of one year. Totally, 22,904 differently abled persons have benefitted during the year 2015-2016 under this scheme. A sum of Rs. 20.87 Crores has been utilized.

A sum of Rs.1107.48 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

29. MOTORISED SEWING MACHINES

In order to provide gainful employment motorised sewing machines are provided to the locomotor differently abled and hearing impaired persons free of cost. During the year 2015-2016, 1961 motorized sewing machines were distributed at the cost of Rs.72.00 Lakhs.

A sum of Rs.72.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

30. SOCIAL SECURITY

The Government, as part of Social Security Scheme, also provides monthly disability pension in the form of maintenance allowance to the differently abled person, Particularly those affected with mental retardation, severe disability, muscular dystrophy and leprosy.

a) Maintenance Allowance to Mentally Retarded Persons, Severely Affected Persons and Persons Affected with Muscular Dystrophy

Maintenance Allowance of Rs.1500/- per month is given to differently abled persons as detailed below:-

Sl. No	Category of Disability	Criteria – Percentage of Disability	Income ceiling	No of beneficiaries
1	Mentally Retarded persons	45% and above	No	110692
2	Severely Affected persons	75% and above	No	15756
3	Persons Affected with Muscular Dystrophy	40% and above	No	2163

Maintenance Allowance is sent through ECS to the bank account of the individual directly from Treasury. During the year 2012-2013, for persons with mental retardation, the eligibility criteria for availing allowance has been reduced from 60% to 45%. Government have also enhanced the monthly allowance from Rs.1000/- to Rs.1500/- in the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs.22760.64 lakhs and Rs.403.98 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for Mentally Retarded and Severely Affected persons and Persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy respectively.

(b) Maintenance Allowance to Leprosy affected persons

The leprosy affected persons are also being given maintenance allowance of Rs.1,000/- per month since December, 2012. The inmates of the Government Rehabilitation Home are also eligible to receive the allowance. Since, 2014-2015, the

allowance is being sent through "ECS" directly from Treasury to the bank account of the beneficiaries.

A sum of Rs.600.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

31. PENSION SCHEME

As part of ensuring Social Security, Government provides following social security pensions on monthly basis to the differently abled persons through the Revenue Department:-

1. Indira Gandhi National Disability pension Scheme (IGNDS)
2. Destitute Differently Abled Pension Scheme (DDAPS)

The State Government have recently relaxed the eligibility criteria vide G.O. (Ms). No.27, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme (SW6 (1)) Department, dated 22.02.2016 as stated below enabling the differently abled persons, who

have disability percentage of 40% and above to avail disability pension:-

1. The word "Destitute" is removed from the eligibility criteria of Indira Gandhi National Disability pension Scheme (IGNDS) and Destitute Differently Abled Pension Scheme (DDAPS).
2. The eligibility criteria of 60% and above disability has been reduced to 40% and above under Destitute Differently Abled Pension Scheme (DDAPS).

During the year 2015-2016, 265777 differently abled persons were benefitted under these schemes at a cost of Rs.324.15 crores.

32. INFORMATION CENTRE FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

Information Centre for the differently abled is functioning at State Resource cum Training Centre campus, O/o. State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, K.K. Nagar, Chennai - 78 from

Monday to Saturday between 10.00 AM to 6.00 P.M. (excluding Govt. holidays). Relevant information about the various schemes implemented by the Central and State Government for the differently abled persons like Disability Identity Card, Aids & Appliances, Travel Concessions, Maintenance Allowance Schemes, Early Diagnostic Centres, Employment etc. are made available to information seekers approaching this toll free number. Information Centre's Toll Free Number -1800 425 0111.

A sum of Rs.1.69 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

33. AIDS AND APPLIANCES

As a physical rehabilitation measure, the State Government supports the differently abled persons with modern hi-tech assistive devices that would promote Physical, Social and Psychological independence by reducing the effect of disabilities. These devices also help to promote

educational attainment, economic independence and social integration with the community.

34. (I) ASSISTIVE DEVICES TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

The following assistive devices are provided to the differently abled persons on need based basis:

- (a) Tricycles;
- (b) Wheel chairs;
- (c) Goggles;
- (d) Reflective Folding sticks;
- (e) Braille Watches;
- (f) Hearing Aids;
- (g) Solar Rechargeable Batteries;
- (h) Calipers;
- (i) Crutches; and
- (j) Artificial limbs.

Calipers and Artificial Limbs are designed, fabricated and fitted by technicians along with the leather workers for each and every individual as

per their need at the units located in the office of District Differently Abled Welfare Officers.

A sum of Rs.75.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(II) MODULAR ASSISTIVE DEVICES

- (a) Modular Artificial Limbs;
- (b) Reflective Folding Sticks;
- (c) Retro-fitted Petrol Scooters;
- (d) Behind the Ear Hearing Aid;
- (e) Modified Cerebral Palsy Wheel Chairs for the persons affected by Cerebral Palsy;
- (f) Magnifier;
- (g) Specially Designed Wheel Chairs.

(a) Supply of Modular Artificial Limbs for the Differently Abled Students, Self Employed and Employed Persons

The latest Modular Functional Artificial Limbs (Modular Transtibial Prosthesis / Modular Transfemoral / Modular Below-Elbow) are

provided to the differently abled persons free of cost to facilitate their mobility. During 2015-2016, 142 persons benefited under the scheme.

A sum of Rs.116.78 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(b) Reflective Folding Sticks

Reflective folding sticks are provided to the visually impaired persons free of cost. 1,500 Visually impaired persons in all received the benefit during the year 2015-2016.

A sum of Rs.8.25 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(c) Retrofitted Petrol Scooters to the Differently Abled Persons affected with both lower Limbs

Retrofitted petrol Scooters are given to both lower limb affected differently abled students / individuals free of cost. This has been a great boon to the beneficiaries as they can now freely

move around. During the year 2015-2016, 1083 Retrofitted petrol scooters are to be distributed at a cost of Rs. 636.00 lakhs.

A sum of Rs.200.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016–2017 for this scheme.

(d) “Behind the Ear” Hearing Aids to Hearing Impaired students

“Behind the Ear” model hearing aids are being provided to the hearing impaired students from 6th standard upto College level. Since 2014-2015, employed and self- employed persons are also given Behind the Ear Hearing Aids. 3460 Hearing Impaired persons were benefitted under this scheme during the year 2015-2016.

A sum of Rs.100.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(e) Modified Special Wheel Chair for the Persons affected by Cerebral Palsy

Modified Special Wheel Chairs are being given to the differently abled persons affected by Cerebral Palsy every year. These chairs are specially designed keeping in mind the special needs of cerebral palsy affected persons.

During the year 2015-2016 an amount of Rs.26.39 lakhs was sanctioned and 473 Modified C.P.Chairs were distributed to the beneficiaries.

A sum of Rs.36.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(f) Magnifiers for Low Vision students

Students suffering from low vision are given magnifiers to enable them to study by themselves from the year 2012-2013. 138 low vision students received the benefit under this scheme during the year 2015-2016 at a cost of Rs. 9.52 lakhs

A sum of Rs.8.50 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

(g) Specially Designed Wheel Chair for Spinal Cord Affected Persons

Specially Designed wheel Chair for Spinal Cord affected persons were introduced last year. These Wheel Chairs are provided with additional soft cushion in the back rest with comfortable leg rest along with quality leg strap to ensure comfort and safety to the user. Totally 960 Specially Designed Wheel Chairs were provided with a cost of Rs.1.92 Crores during the year 2015 -2016.

35. TRAVEL CONCESSION TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS IN STATE-OWNED TRANSPORT CORPORATION BUSES

Travel concession is provided to the differently abled persons in the State owned Transport Corporation buses. Differently abled students studying in the special schools are permitted to travel without charges both to and

fro from their residence. The visually impaired persons are permitted to travel without charges in the Government Transport Corporation buses upto 100 Kms from their residence without any condition. All other differently abled persons are permitted to avail travel concession with certain conditions in order to pursue their education, visit hospitals, training centres and to undertake employment. Besides the visually impaired and orthopedically differently abled persons are permitted to travel free of cost to their native places and back within the State once in a year in Express buses.

Persons with mental retardation are permitted to travel along with one escort free of cost. All categories of differently abled persons can avail 75% concession to travel to any place in the State in all types of buses except air-conditioned bus without any restriction on the number of trips. 75% concession is also given to the escorts who accompany such differently abled

persons who cannot travel alone. Besides all children with disabilities are permitted to travel free of cost along with one escort from their residence to Early Intervention Centers and the Pre-Schools and back.

During the year 2015-2016, Rs.61.00 Crores was incurred under the scheme.

A sum of Rs.1500.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

36. MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Marriage assistance schemes is being implemented with the objective to encourage normal persons to marry the differently abled persons. Marriage assistance including Rs. 25,000/- and 4 grams of gold coin for making "Thirumangalyam" for the bride is given.

Following are the categories of marriage assistance being given:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Graduates / Diploma Holders	Others
1.	Assistance to normal person marrying visually impaired	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-4 Grams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams
2.	Assistance to normal person marrying orthopaedically handicapped	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-4 Grams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-4 Grams
3.	Assistance to normal person marrying speech and hearing impaired	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-4 Grams
4.	Assistance to Differently Abled person marrying Differently Abled	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams

There is no ceiling on the number of beneficiaries and all the eligible applicants receive the marriage assistance without any omission. During 2015-2016 marriage assistance was given to 858 beneficiaries.

A sum of Rs.330.85 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

37. RESCUE SCHEME

Many mentally ill persons are unfortunately abandoned by the family. Such unattended persons found wandering in the streets and other public places are rescued and admitted in the Hospitals / Rehabilitation Homes for the mentally ill. This scheme is implemented through Non Governmental Organizations. During 2015-2016, 445 mentally ill persons were rescued and admitted into Hospitals/ Homes for mentally ill persons.

A sum of Rs.7.50 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the Year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

38. DAY CARE CENTRES FOR PERSONS WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

The Muscular Dystrophy, which is a crippling disease is characterized by progressive weakness of muscles. This disease needs continuous medical care, Physiotherapy and supportive services. Day Care Centres have been established in Chennai, Vellore, Madurai and Tirunelveli to provide medical support, Physiotherapy and guidance to persons with Muscular Dystrophy. These Day Care centres are managed by Non Governmental Organisations with Government assistance.

A sum of Rs.92.30 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

39. TAMIL NADU WELFARE BOARD FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the differently abled was established in the year 2007 in which 6,32,587 differently abled persons have been

enrolled as members so far. The eligibility criteria for enrolling as member is that, the differently abled person should be above 10 years of age.

Following Social Security and Welfare schemes for the differently abled persons are being implemented by the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board.

(1)	Personal accident relief:		
	The Compensation provided under the scheme is as follows:		
	(a)	Death	Rs.1,00,000/-
	(b)	Loss of both lower or upper limb or total disfunction and irrecoverable loss of limbs	Rs.1,00,000/-
	(c)	Loss of any one lower or upper limb or total and irrecoverable loss of one hand or one foot or total and irrecoverable loss of sight in one eye	Rs.50,000/-
(d)	Permanent total disablement from injuries other than those specified in items (b) and (c) above	Rs.25,000/-	
(2)	Assistance to meet the funeral expenses of a differently abled person	Rs.2,000/-	
(3)	Assistance on the natural death of a differently abled person	Rs.15,000/-	

(4)	Assistance for education of the son or daughter of a differently abled person:		
	(a)	(i) if the daughter of the applicant is studying in 10 th Standard	Rs.1,000/-
		(ii) if the son or daughter of the applicant had passed the 10th Standard examination	Rs.1,000/-
	(b)	(i) if the daughter of an applicant is studying in +1 Standard	Rs.1,000/-
	(c)	(i) if the daughter of the applicant is studying in +2 Standard	Rs.1,500/-
		(ii) if the son or daughter of the applicant had passed +2 Standard	Rs.1,500/-
	(d)	(i) if the son or daughter of the applicant is studying in regular Bachelor Degree Course (for every academic year of the course)	Rs.1,500/-
		(ii) If the son or daughter studying in the course and staying in the hostel.	Rs. 1,750/-
		(iii) If the son or daughter of the applicant studying in regular Post Graduate Course (for every academic year of the course)	Rs. 2,000/-
		(iv) If the son or daughter studying the course and staying in the hostel	Rs. 3,000/-

	(e)	(i)	If the son or daughter of the applicant is studying a Professional Course in Law / Engineering / Medical/ Veterinary Science/ Allied Courses/ (for every academic year of the course)	Rs. 2,000/-
		(ii)	If the son or daughter studying in the course and staying in the hostel	Rs.4,000/-
		(iii)	If the son or daughter of the applicant is studying a Post Graduate Professional Course (for every academic year of the course)	Rs. 4,000/-
	(f)	(iv)	If the son or daughter studying the course and staying in the hostel	Rs. 6,000/-
		(i)	If the son or daughter of the applicant is studying in Industrial Training Institute or Polytechnic Course. (for every academic year of the course)	Rs. 1,000/-
		(ii)	if the son or daughter studying the course and staying in the hostel	Rs. 1,200/-
(5)	Assistance for Marriage (son or daughter of differently abled person is eligible)			Rs. 2,000/-

(6)	Assistance for delivery or miscarriage of pregnancy or the termination of pregnancy to a differently abled female members	
(i)	Delivery	Rs.6,000/-
(ii)	Miscarriage	Rs. 3,000/-
(iii)	Termination of pregnancy	Rs. 3,000/-
(7)	Assistance for purchase of spectacles by a diferently abled person	Rs. 500/-

A sum of Rs.100.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

40. GOVERNMENT REHABILITATION HOMES

The Government have established 10 Rehabilitation Homes for persons affected with leprosy. These Homes were started with the intention to provide medical assistance and rehabilitation. The locations of these Homes are as follows:

Sl. No.	Place of the Government Rehabilitation Home
1	Paranur, Kanchipuram District
2	Ulundurpet, Villupuram District

3	Bargur, Krishnagiri District
4	Pudukottai, Pudukottai District
5	Manaiyeripatti, Thanjavur District
6	Y. Pudupatti, Madurai District
7	Mallavadi, Thiruvannamalai District
8	Selliampatti, Dharmapuri District
9	Deviyakurichi, Salem District
10	Vinnapalli, Erode District

Each Home is provided with facilities to accommodate a maximum of 400 adults and 25 children. Voluntary admission into these homes is made after confirmation of the disease by the specialist. The Government Rehabilitation Home, Ulundurpet admits leprosy beggars who are convicted by the Courts. The patients are admitted along with their family members. The inmates are discharged from the home either on good health condition or on disciplinary grounds.

The inmates are provided with free boarding, lodging, clothing, medical facilities, library and

recreation facilities, such as games, musical instruments and television. Able inmates are trained in mat weaving, cloth weaving, tailoring and shoe-making. They are paid wages for the goods produced by them.

Each inmate is supplied food @ Rs.42/-per day for adults and Rs.37/- per day for children. On special occasions such as Deepavali, Pongal, Republic day, Independence day, Gandhi Jayanthi, Anti Leprosy day and Annual day, special food is supplied. Two sets of clothes are distributed every year during Pongal and Deepavali festival. Every year Micro Cellular rubber footwear and mats are supplied. Plates and tumblers are supplied once in five years and blankets are supplied once in three years. Text books and Note books are given free of cost to the children of the inmates studying from Standard I to Standard XII.

The inmates are provided medical assistance by the Medical Officers in each home. Funds are

allocated to each home for various items as follows:

Sl. No.	Item	Expenditure allotted per annum
1.	Supply of special type of shoes and artificial limbs (for needy inmates)	Rs.1,000/-
2.	Purchase of spectacles	Rs.5,000/-
3.	Tooth brush and Tooth powder	Rs.2,500/-
4.	Sports materials	Rs.1,200/-
5.	Musical Instruments	Rs.400/-

Further, the Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.2,000/- to perform the funeral rituals for the deceased inmates.

A sum of Rs.1035.27 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

41. HOMES FOR THE ADULT MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS

Most of the adult mentally retarded persons depend on others for their daily activities. Invariably it is the parents they depend upon. Therefore some kind of alternative arrangement has to be provided for such persons when family care is not available.

With the aim of providing a safe environment to the adult mentally retarded, Government have established 42 Homes (7 for Male and Female, 16 for Male and 19 for Female) through Non Governmental Organizations. The scheme benefits totally 1640 adult mentally retarded persons. Besides providing food and shelter and recreation facilities, vocational training is also imparted to the inmates to enhance their vocational skills.

A sum of Rs.322.92 lakhs has been allotted in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017

42. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH RUN RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

A large number of NGOs are working with the Government to provide secure shelter and skill development to the mentally retarded children. The Government provides financial assistances such as feeding charges for the inmates, rental grant and grant for construction of building/extension of building to the Non Governmental Organizations. These institutions provide special education, and skill training along with food shelter, care and protection to the mentally retarded children.

A sum of Rs.361.75 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016–2017.

43. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO DAY CARE CENTRES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN THENI DISTRICT RUN BY NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

Three Day Care Centres for the mentally retarded children are functioning in Theni District run by Non Governmental Organizations. Totally 90 mentally retarded children avail comprehensive rehabilitation assistance through these centers. Feeding charges and salary grant to the special educators are provided by the Government. An amount of Rs. 11.64 Lakhs has been utilized during the year 2015–2016.

A sum of Rs.11.64 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016–2017 for the scheme.

44. SALARY GRANT TO SPECIAL EDUCATORS AND THERAPISTS EMPLOYED IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

A large number of special educators and therapists are engaged in the special schools in

order to provide holistic development to the mentally retarded children. The Government gives salary grant of Rs. 10,000/- per month to the special educators and therapists (Physiotherapist/occupational therapist/speech therapist) working in these special schools for mentally retarded children, run by Non Governmental Organizations.

A sum of Rs.720.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016–2017 for the scheme.

45. GOVERNMENT CARE CAMP AT MELPAKKAM

With a view to prevent beggary and to rehabilitate the beggars as good citizens, the Government Care Camp at Melpakkam was started on 1-3-1954 with a sanctioned strength of 950 members (Males 770 + Females 180). The beggars are admitted here on conviction under The Madras Prevention of Begging Act, 1945 for the period of detention as ordered by the Court.

They are provided with free boarding, lodging, clothing, and medical facilities and are also given training in various trades like weaving, carpentry, pottery and tailoring so that they can get gainful employment on going out of the camp.

A sum of Rs.79.54 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

46. BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

It has been the endeavor of the Government to provide a barrier free environment to ensure better mobility of the differently abled persons.

In GO (Ms) No.21, Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MA.1) Department, dated 01.02.2013, Government have issued orders for making provision of ramps, lifts, handrails, special toilets and parking space for vehicles for the

differently abled mandatory in buildings having more than two floors.

Auditory signals would be fixed shortly at 150 traffic signals in Chennai City for the benefit of visually impaired persons at a cost of Rs. 75.00 lakhs. Besides an alert system in Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) buses to make travel easy for visually impaired persons will be introduced shortly in 75 bus routes in the City. A sum of Rs.9.50 lakhs has been allotted for the scheme.

47. WELFARE ACTIVITIES UNDER CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) FUNDS

The department has taken initiative to obtain Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding from various state undertakings during 2015-2016. As a result the department received Rs.1.09 Crores. The department is providing a

large number of assistive devices and also creating infrastructure by using the funds.

48. STATE AWARDS

The State Government honours persons and institutions in recognition of their outstanding services for the differently abled persons by presenting State Award on the occasion of Independence Day celebration as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Award	Nature of Award
1.	Best Employer Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal, and Certificate
2.	Best Institution Award (for Best Institution serving Disabled persons)	10 Grams of Gold Medal, Cash Prize of Rs.50,000/-, and Certificate
3.	Best Social Worker Award (for outstanding work done for disabled)	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate
4.	Best Doctor Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate
5.	Best Collector Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal, Certificate and Cash prize of Rs.25,000/-
6.	Best District Co-operative Bank for providing maximum amount of loan	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate

A sum of Rs.5.50 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for the scheme.

49. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

“International day of the Differently Abled” is celebrated on 3rd December every year by the State Government in accordance with the declaration of the United Nations Organisation. This day is observed to raise awareness regarding the special needs of persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for their rights. The day is celebrated to also encourage the differently abled persons to show their different skills and abilities in the field of arts and sports. As many as, 5,000 differently abled students from all over the State participate in various events organized on the occasion. Several sports events at the state level are conducted and prizes given to the winners. Cultural programmes are also conducted on the occasions. Besides State awards are given to the

Best Social Worker, Best Employee, Best Teacher, Best Institution, Best Conductor and Best Driver, who provide exceptional services to the welfare of the differently abled. Award details are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the Award	Nature of Award
1.	Best Employer Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate
2.	Best Employee / Self-employed Award (5 categories)	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate
3.	Best Teacher Award (5 categories)	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate
4.	Best Institution Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate
5.	Best Driver Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate
6.	Best Conductor Award	10 Grams of Gold Medal and Certificate

The Government have also granted special casual leave to all the differently abled employees in Government Departments / Undertakings to enable them to celebrate the day.

A sum of Rs.20.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016–2017 for this scheme.

50. MOBILE THERAPY UNIT

Mobile Therapy Unit was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 16.6.2015 for the welfare of the differently abled children in the age group of 0-6 years. A sum of Rs.4.49 crores has been sanctioned by the Government for this purpose. This initiative is first of its kind in the country which takes rehabilitation service for the differently abled children to their doorsteps.

Following are the main activities carried out by the Mobile Therapy unit:

- (i) Early diagnosis and identification of different types of differently abled children.
- (ii) Providing physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy.

(iii) Assessment for suitable assistive devices, pre-vocational training and special education for the children.

The Tempo Traveller AC Vehicle, which is converted into 2 cabins i.e. Therapy Room and the Driver cabin has the following facilities:-

- (i) Therapy Room of the size of 10'X6' is designed in such a way to enable physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, new born screening, early intervention activities.
- (ii) Play-way therapy for children with different kinds of disability.
- (iii) Therapy cabin also has a Testing Couch to enable the therapist to provide therapy to the differently abled children.

Totally 14,476 children below the age of 6 years who require immediate intervention have been enumerated in all the 32 districts. These

vehicles move to different parts of the district as per an advance tour programme approved by the Collector.

A sum of Rs.97.01 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2016-2017 for this scheme.

51. CHIEF MINISTER'S HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

In order to achieve the objective of Universal Health Care to the people of Tamil Nadu, Government have implemented a comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme which also benefit the differently abled persons. Under this scheme, all the differently abled persons and their family members are enrolled without any income ceiling.

The basic eligibility criteria for enrolling the families of the differently abled persons as beneficiaries is to be a resident of Tamil Nadu and one member of the family should be differently

abled. Entire premium is paid by the Government on behalf of the beneficiaries.

The sum assured is Rs. 1 lakh per year per family along with a provision to pay upto Rs.1.5 lakh per year per family for certain specified procedures like renal transplantation, more than one cardiac valve replacement etc.

CONCLUSION

The State Government is committed to providing equal opportunity to the differently abled persons in all spheres of life so that the goal of Inclusive Development is achieved in letter and spirit.

**Dr. V. SAROJA,
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL
WELFARE AND
NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL
PROGRAMME**