

DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

**POLICY NOTE
2021 –2022**

DEMAND No. 52

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CHIEF MINISTER**



**Government of Tamil Nadu
2021**

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DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

POLICY NOTE

2021-2022

I. PREAMBLE

The Government of Tamil Nadu is the only State in India that has established a department exclusively for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons both at the Secretariat and Head of the Department level. To add a feather in the cap, the department has District Offices with field units in all the districts. It would be worthwhile to mention that all these have been created so that the Differently Abled Persons are looked after with utmost care and give equal access to the

schemes / policies implemented by the Government reach them without any hassle. With a view to identify them in a more dignified manner, the term 'Differently Abled Persons' was coined by the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Kalaaignar Dr.M.Karunanidhi which exhibited his passion towards them. To oversee the implementation of the schemes for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons, he kept the department in his portfolio. As a continuation of this legacy, the department functions under the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Government have also constituted a Welfare Board for the Differently Abled to recommend various welfare measures.

The Union Government has formulated the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Government of Tamil Nadu is taking all earnest steps to implement various provisions of

the said Act with a view to empower the Differently Abled Persons and remove barriers in terms of communicational, cultural, economic, environmental, institutional, political, social, attitudinal or structural factors. To supplement the Act, the Government of Tamil Nadu has framed the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 stipulating the rules to be followed in the implementation of the Act.

To give proper identity to the Differently Abled Persons, the Department has been issuing 'National Disability Identity Certificate' cards. The Differently Abled Persons can approach the District Differently Abled Welfare Office to get an assessment of their condition by specified doctors. Based on the extent of disability, identity cards are issued. The Department has been issuing such Identity Cards from the year

1989 and so far about 13.35 lakh cards have been issued. These Identity Cards aid the Differently Abled Persons to avail benefits under various schemes implemented by the Government.

With a view to have an estimate of the Differently Abled population in the State, a comprehensive survey throughout the State is on the anvil.

II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)

The United Nations General Assembly Summit, in the year 2015, embarked on the mission '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and it was adopted by the 193 Member States, including India. The mission include 17 Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) to be followed and the Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to achieve these goals so as to improve the socio-economic status of all sections of the people including the Differently Abled. Further, all the Member States are committed to the broad promise of 'Leave No One Behind (LNOB)' to redress inequality and exclusion. To strengthen this commitment, the Member States took a pledge to 'reach the farthest behind first'.

The Department implements several schemes for achieving these SDGs and in its endeavour to fulfill this commitment, Government of Tamil Nadu has formed a separate SDG Unit in the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department to oversee the implementation of the SDGs.

Goal 1 (No poverty) of the SDG is achieved by implementing various schemes by the Department such as Maintenance allowance granted to the various kinds of Differently Abled persons, Marriage assistance granted for marriages involving Differently Abled Persons, unemployment allowance granted to Differently Abled Persons. The Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) of the SDG is attained through the Nutritional intervention given to children studying in Special Schools, Feeding grant given to students in hostels in aided Special Schools, Weaning and Supplementary nutritious food given to the inmates of Early Intervention Centres. Schemes like Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme covers all the family members without income ceiling in case if there is any differently abled person in the family Running of Government Rehabilitation Homes, Special

rehabilitation homes for intellectually disabled and mentally ill persons, Early Intervention Centres, Day Care Centres for persons affected with muscular dystrophy and intellectual disability and the Mobile Therapy Unit operated by the Department facilitate in achieving the Goal 3 (Health for all). Other schemes implemented by the department such as Career guidance and Counselling for the students studying in the Special Schools, Educational scholarships, Readers allowance, Scribe assistance, Electronic devices given to the Differently Abled Students, granting Cash assistance to prevent drop outs help in achieving the Goal 4 (Quality Education). All the schemes implemented by the Department are equally applicable to all irrespective of gender and thus Goal 5 (Gender Equality) is achieved. The Government have been providing Clean Water and proper sanitation, so as to fulfill

the Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The Government is progressively providing Energy through non-conventional sources like, Wind, Solar, etc., so as to achieve the Goal 7 (Clean and Affordable Energy). The Goal 8 of Decent work and economic growth for differently abled people is attained through the schemes like Self Employment Schemes, conduct of job fairs and training programmes on book binding, multimedia and digital photography, Fitter etc., The Government is committed to ensure that all public buildings are provided with Barrier Free Structures so as to make them accessible for the Differently Abled Persons to ensure their active participation in economic activities in order to achieve Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). The Goal 10 (Reduce Inequalities) have been achieved by providing special education and various social security

schemes to Differently Abled Persons and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) are achieved through the implementation of the Schemes such as making the existing / new public buildings accessible to the Differently Abled Persons, Installing auditory signals at traffic junctions and audio alert system in Government buses. The Differently Abled Persons are provided subsidy to start income generating activity and encouraged to utilize and produce sustainable material whenever possible so as to achieve the Goal 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) is achieved. Action is also taken to achieve the Goal 13 (Climate Change), Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and Goal 15 (Life on Land) by creating awareness among the general public including Differently Abled Persons. The offences against the Differently Abled Persons are tried in

Special Courts and the Government has also appointed Special Public Prosecutors in all the Districts and thus Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong) is achieved. To achieve all the Goals, participation of all the departments of the Government, Non-Governmental Organisation and Civil Society in tandem is built up in order to achieve the Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

III.INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

The United Nations Organisation had declared that the 3rd December of every year shall be celebrated as the 'International day of the Differently Abled'. In order to make the society aware on the needs of the Differently Abled and the respect they deserve and to showcase their talents in the various fields of art,

culture and sports, the International Day of the Differently Abled is celebrated in Tamil Nadu with much fanfare. Various awards are also distributed to the best performers in different fields on this day.

As provided in Section 21 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the Government is bringing out the 'Equal Opportunity Policy' which should be submitted by both private establishment having more than twenty or more employees and the Government establishment, so that posts suitable for the Differently Abled Persons are identified in the Government and Private establishments.

This Government endeavours to create a society that is barrier free for the Differently Abled Persons and to achieve this objective

various innovative schemes are being implemented by the Department.

The Government have allocated a sum of Rs.813.63 crore as Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 to the Department and while it denotes the highest allocation made to the department, it also stands as a testimony to the commitment of the Government to the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons.

IV. THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

To give effect to the Convention of the United Nations General Assembly, the Union Government enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 with effect from 19th day of April 2017 replacing the earlier Act enacted in the year 1995. This gives statutory backing for the rights of the Differently Abled Persons and it

contains various provisions to improve their socio-economic status. The Act mandates that the Differently Abled Persons be treated with dignity and there shall not be any discrimination. It encourages their full participation in all the activities in the Society and it is a tool for their empowerment. The Government of Tamil Nadu is fully committed to implement the provisions of the Act in letter and spirit and in furtherance to the cause have framed the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018. While the 1995 Act had recognized seven categories of disabilities, the present Act has added a few more categories and recognizes twenty one categories of disabilities including dwarfism, muscular dystrophy, acid attack victims, specific learning disabilities, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, blood disorders like

haemophilia, thalassemia, sickle cell disease etc.,

The salient features of the Act are as follows:-

- i) A State Commissioner for the Persons with Disabilities with the powers of a Civil Court to implement the provisions of the Act may be appointed.
- ii) It provides 4% reservation in employment opportunities in all Government establishments including Local Bodies, Government Companies, etc.,
- iii) 5% reservation in admission is provided in all Government and Aided Higher Educational Institutions.
- iv) An equal opportunity policy has to be evolved by the Government department

and registered with the State Commissioner.

- v) To constitute an Advisory Board to advise the Government on the welfare measures to be undertaken for the benefit of the Differently Abled Persons.
- vi) A 'Grievance Redressal Officer' may be appointed in all Government establishments to redress the grievances of the Differently Abled Persons.
- vii) Promotion cannot be denied on the grounds of disability.
- viii) To establish Special Courts and appoint Special Public Prosecutors to try the cases relating to offences under the Act.

- ix) A State Fund shall be constituted to be utilized for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons.
- x) To provide Barrier free structures in public buildings, transport and public websites.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP

The Director of the Welfare of the Differently Abled is the Head of the Department having his headquarters at Chennai. He is also the State Commissioner for the Persons with Disabilities under the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. In the headquarters, he is assisted by a Joint Director and two Deputy Directors and three Assistant Directors. A separate wing in the headquarters look after the administration of the 22 Special Schools run by the Government.

All the Districts have unit offices headed by the District Differently Abled Welfare Officer. Recently, the Government have issued orders forming the District Units in the five newly formed Districts of Chengalpattu, Kallakurichi, Ranipet, Tirupattur and Tenkasi so that the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons are looked after without any hassle.

The schemes formulated by the Government for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons are implemented through the District Differently Abled Welfare Officers and the District Units play a vital role in this regard.

While the Department implements various schemes formulated by the Government for the Welfare of the Differently Abled Persons it also provides various services to the Non-Governmental Organisations that provide

services to these deserving citizens. The services rendered by the Department are explained in detail below:-

1. REGISTRATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 mandates that no person shall establish or maintain an institution for the Differently Abled Persons like running Rehabilitation Centres etc except in accordance with the Certificate of Registration issued by the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. Accordingly, 203 Non-Governmental Organisations establishing institutions have been registered as on date for providing various rehabilitation services to the Differently Abled Persons.

The Special Schools run by the Non-Governmental Organisations are recognized by the Director for the Welfare of the Differently Abled as provided in the Tamil Nadu Recognized Private Schools Regulation Act, 1973 and the Rules framed thereunder. As on date there are 369 recognized Special Schools.

The Tamil Nadu Registration of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centres of Mentally ill Persons Rules, 2002 empowers the Department to regulate the Rehabilitation Centres for persons with Mental Illness and as on date 85 such centres have been registered with the department.

2. SERVICES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN

2.1. HEARING IMPAIRMENT – EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND DIAGNOSIS

With a view to identify Hearing Impairment early and to expedite subsequent diagnosis, Early Identification and Diagnostic centres for Hearing Impaired have been established in 28 districts. These Centres identify the permanent congenital and acquired hearing impairment both in children and adult and provide hearing aid and other allied services to those in need. During the year 2020-2021, 6064 persons have been diagnosed through these centres and as on date totally 32013 persons have been diagnosed.

New born babies are screened for hearing loss and neuro developmental delay in the State Resource cum Training Centre, Chennai and

1325 babies with disabilities have been provided with early intervention services.

A scheme called “New Born Screening for Hearing Loss” to identify new born babies with hearing impairment and to refer them for further treatment is being implemented by the Department in 11 maternity hospitals in Chennai and 10 hospitals situated at the District and Taluk headquarters and upgraded primary health centres in Sivaganga District, totaling 21 hospitals. 23,055 babies have been screened so far in the year 2021-2022 under the scheme and, 17 and 38 new born babies in Chennai and Sivagangai Districts respectively totaling 55 babies have been identified with hearing impairment and have been referred to higher centers. Parents of these new born babies are given counseling to look for the responses of the

children in hearing and are advised to bring the babies at the end of 3rd month for further diagnosis. The babies are under constant supervision of the Department.

2.2.EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN

With a view to train the children below 6 years who are differently abled, Early Intervention Centres have been established in various District Headquarters through NGOs. These Centres render proper training to these children so as to enable them to join regular schooling. The Special Educators, totaling 279 in these Centres are being paid a consolidated amount of Rs.14,000/- per month by the Government and altogether there are 92 such Centres and 2275 children are trained here. Depending upon the category of children

they train, there are different kinds of Early Intervention Centres and their details are as follows:-

| Early Intervention Centre category | Total no. of Centres | Total no. of inmates | Total no. of Special Educators | Budget allocation for 2021-2022 (Rs. in lakh) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Early Intervention Centre for the Hearing Impaired | 33 | 504 | 63 | 114.64 |
| Early Intervention Centre for the Intellectually Disabled | 31 | 1120 | 140 | 286.44 |
| Early Intervention Centre for the Visually Impaired | 6 | 96 | 12 | 24.60 |
| Early Intervention Centre for the children with Cerebral Palsy | 2 | 75 | 5 | 13.38 |

| | | | | |
|--|----|-----|----|-------|
| Early Intervention Centre for the children with Autism | 19 | 456 | 57 | 18.96 |
| Early Intervention Centre for children with Multiple Disabilities at Tiruchirappalli | 1 | 24 | 2 | 3.84 |

2.3. HOME BASED EARLY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN WITH DELAYED DEVELOPMENT

This scheme provides home based early intervention for children with delayed development under the age of 6 years in 11 blocks of Tirunelveli District and 2 blocks of Thoothukudi District by the Anganwadi Workers who have been specially trained for the purpose. 1686 children with delayed development have been identified and they are appropriately treated

with physiotherapy, speech therapy through the mobile application Village Based Rehabilitation Initiative (mVBRI).

2.4. PROVIDING WEANING AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR THE CHILDREN IN EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES

Children attending the Early Intervention Centres are provided with Weaning and Nutritious food from the Anganwadi Centres of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). 1724 Children from 69 Early Intervention Centres have been benefitted under the Scheme and a sum of Rs.3.45 lakh has been provided for the year 2021-2022.

2.5.TOUR FOR SPECIAL EDUCATORS AND CHILDREN CARETAKERS

With a view to keep the Special Educators and Children Caretakers of the Early Intervention

Centres in good spirits, one day tour is organized for them through the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Limited. A sum of Rs.7.46 lakh has been allotted in 2021-2022 for the scheme.

2.6. MOBILE THERAPY UNIT

The Early Intervention Centres are mostly available only at the District Headquarters and in order to serve the children who are residing outside these locations, Mobile Therapy Units are run by the Department. These Units provide doorstep services to the beneficiaries that include Physiotherapy, Speech therapy, Special Education and other Rehabilitation work. These services have been provided to 97,426 persons so far. For the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.190.15 lakh has been provided for this.

3. RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRES

There are two Resource cum Training Centre viz., State Resource cum Training Centre functioning at Chennai and the Regional Resource cum Training Centre functioning at Tiruchirappalli. Both these Centres are run by the Government with the support of the NGOs. These Centres provide specialized services to the Differently Abled Persons under one roof and also train them in different skills. While the Centre at Chennai cater to the needs of the people in and around Chennai, the one at Tiruchirappalli caters to the needs of the people in the Southern Districts.

Disability Certificates which enable the Differently Abled Persons to avail various kinds of assistance from the Government are issued through these Centres and during the year 2020-2021, 4478 and 2332 certificates and pass

books were issued by the Chennai and Tiruchirappalli Centres respectively.

The Budget allocation for the Chennai Centre during the year 2021-2022 is Rs.35.66 lakh while it is Rs.22.07 lakh for the Tiruchirappalli Centre.

It has been proposed to establish a Composite Regional Centre at Madurai with the assistance of the Union Government to provide similar services.

4. REHABILITATION HOMES

It is imperative that the Differently Abled Persons who require rehabilitation services are provided with the same so that they are rehabilitated and cured of their illness quickly. Different categories of Rehabilitation Homes are run by the Government and they are detailed as below:-

4.1.REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

Mental illness is curable and it is essential that proper care is given to these people so that they come out of it at the earliest. There are 53 Rehabilitation Homes run by NGOs with the aid of the Government in various parts of the State and each Home can accommodate 50 persons each. These Homes provide shelter, food and medical attention to the mentally ill persons.

During the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.621.35 lakh has been provided for this purpose.

For those persons who have recovered from hospitals and rehabilitation homes, orders have been issued to establish Half-way Homes at Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Vellore,

Tiruchirappalli and Kanyakumari at a cost of Rs.40.10 lakh. These Half-way Homes would benefit 700 inmates.

The Department is also implementing a scheme called 'Rescue Scheme' through which mentally ill persons who are either wandering or left as destitute are rescued and rehabilitated in various homes. During the year 2020-2021, 499 persons have been rescued and admitted in these Homes. Rs.7.50 lakh is provided as Budget for this scheme during the year 2021-2022.

4.2.REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED

Intellectually disabled persons above the age of 14 are rehabilitated in the 42 homes run by the NGOs with the support of the Government in different parts of the State. Out of these

42 homes, 16 are for males, 19 are for females and 7 are for both. Apart from providing food, shelter and medical services, these Homes also impart training in candle making, baking, gardening etc. As on date 1975 persons are getting rehabilitated in these homes.

A sum of Rs.774.26 lakh has been provided in the Budget for this purpose during the year 2021-2022.

4.3. GOVERNMENT REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE LEPROSY AFFECTED

To render proper care to the leprosy affected persons, the Government has established 10 rehabilitation homes for their welfare at Paranur, Ulundurpet, Bargur, Pudukottai, Manaiyeripatti, Y.Pudupatti, Mallavadi, Selliyampatti, Deviyakurichi and Vinnapalli. There are 614 Inmates in these homes as on date. Inmates of these homes can

either be admitted voluntarily or after getting the disease confirmed by a Doctor. Even family members are also taken care of along with the patients. Once the inmates get cured, they are discharged from the Homes on their own volition. Leprosy affected patients indulging in beggary and are convicted by a Judicial Magistrate are admitted in the Home at Ulundurpet. Boarding, lodging, clothing and medical services are provided to the inmates. The adult and child inmates are provided food at the rate of Rs.1200/- per month and Rs.1110/- per month respectively. The inmates are also provided special food on festival occasions such as Deepavali, Pongal, Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanthi etc.,

The inmates of these Homes are trained in vocational skills such as mat weaving, cloth

weaving, tailoring and shoe-making and are paid wages for the goods produced by them.

Every year, the inmates are provided with two sets of clothes on the occasion of Deepavali and Pongal and rubber foot wear and mats are also distributed. Once in three years, blankets are supplied.

A sum of Rs.959.39 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for running these Homes.

4.4. GOVERNMENT CARE CAMP AT MELPAKKAM

Individuals who indulge in beggary and are convicted for begging under the Prevention of Beggary Act, 1945 are rehabilitated in this camp for the entire period of their detention ordered by the Court. Since there are no convictions in the recent past, there are no inmates at present.

5. DAY CARE CENTRES

Day Care Centres provide various services for the Differently Abled Persons during day time. Day Care Centres for the persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy are functioning at 14 places across the State and have been providing medical support and physiotherapy to prevent progressive weakening of muscles. These Centres are run by the NGOs with financial assistance from the Government and altogether there are 360 inmates in these Centres. During the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.301.99 lakh has been provided in the Budget for these Centres.

Day Care Centres for the Intellectually Disabled Children are functioning at three places in Theni District and a sum of Rs.14.52 lakh has been provided in the Budget for the year

2021-2022 for providing assistances to these Centres.

6. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Government is striving to provide inclusive education to the Differently Abled Persons and the Government in recognition of the importance of rendering appropriate education to them is running 22 Special Schools in different parts of the State. In addition there are 50 Government aided Special Schools run by NGOs that educate these children. There are more than 6400 students studying in these 72 schools, Out of the 22 Special Schools run by the Government, the three Schools at Poonamallee, Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur for the visually impaired and the two schools at Thanjavur and Dharmapuri for the hearing impaired are Higher Secondary Schools.

Apart from providing quality education, the Government run Special Schools provide boarding facility also for the students, free of cost. Further, all the students studying in these schools, including the aided schools, are provided with food and the Government gives a feeding grant of Rs.900/- per month to each student. Government Special School students undertake one day and three days educational tour. Smart classes have been introduced in nine Government Special Schools for the hearing impaired. The Government run special schools have been equipped with computer labs to impart quality education in Information Technology.

For the benefit of the students studying in the 10 Government Special Schools for the visually impaired, washing machines and power laundry are provided. Further 204 Electronic

Braille Readers have been provided at a cost of Rs.69.91 lakh.

Students studying in the Government run Special Schools are supplied with Text Books and Note Books free of cost. They are also provided with four sets of uniforms every year and a sum of Rs.10.03 lakh has been provided in the year 2021-2022 for the purpose.

New building for the Government High School for the Deaf for Girls at Salem is being constructed at a cost of Rs.6.70 crore.

Smart Classes for the Visually Impaired is being provided in 12 Special Schools at a cost of Rs.1.08 crore.

To assist the Visually Impaired students studying in the Government Special Schools at Poonamallee, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and

modern electronic gadgets like the Angel Pro Daisy Player has been provided at a cost of Rs.10.10 lakh and it aids in making their learning easy.

6.1. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE AIDED SPECIAL SCHOOLS

To assist the NGOs running the Special Schools, Government pays the salary to the permissible teachers. Apart from this, maximum of 3 special educators per school are paid Rs.14,000/- per month as honorarium. A sum of Rs. 313.17 lakh has been provided in the Budget for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme.

The Government has earmarked to spend Rs.271.20 lakh during the year 2021-2022 as feeding grant for the students studying in Government aided Special Schools.

Special Educators, Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists and Speech therapists employed in the Special Schools for the Intellectually Disabled run by the NGOs are also paid an honorarium of Rs.14,000/- per month and a sum of Rs. 1597.56 lakh has been provided in the Budget for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme.

There are Special training centres for the Intellectually Disabled children at Theni and Cuddalore Districts run by the NGOs and the Government is providing financial assistance. A sum of Rs.8.65 lakh for Theni District and Rs.10.77 lakh for Cuddalore District has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for the above special schools.

Government provides financial assistance to the NGOs running Special Schools for the

Intellectually Disabled and as on date 7862 students are studying in these Special schools. During 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.618.53 lakh has been provided in the budget.

6.2. SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDENTS

To encourage the Differently Abled students to pursue their studies without any break and as an incidental expenditure, they are awarded scholarships depending upon the class in which they study. The details of the scholarship are as follows:-

| Sl. No. | Standard | Scholarship Amount |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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/- |

During the year 2020-2021, 19,675 students have been given the scholarship. A sum of Rs.681.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme.

6.3. READER'S ALLOWANCE

Visually Impaired Students studying from 9th Standard are granted Reader's Allowance and it varies depending upon the course of their study. Details of the allowance are as follows:-

| Sl. No. | Standard | Reader's Allowance |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|
| 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/- |

During the year 2020-2021, 1980 students have been provided with the allowance. A sum of Rs.100.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme.

6.4. SCRIBE ASSISTANCE

Visually Impaired Students studying from 9th Standard may avail the assistance of a Scribe while writing their examinations and a sum of Rs.300/- is being provided for the purpose. A sum of Rs. 44.85 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme. During the year 2020-2021, the scribe assistance has been provided to 533 persons.

6.5. CASH INCENTIVE TO PREVENT DROP-OUTS

To prevent drop-out from Schools, students studying in 10th and 11th Standards are given a cash incentive of Rs.1500/-, while the students of 12th Standard are given a cash incentive of Rs.2000/-.

A sum of Rs.24.45 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme.

6.6. HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

In furtherance to the School Education services provided by the Department, the Government is providing B.Com and B.C.A. courses for the Hearing Impaired at the Presidency College, Chennai and the guest lecturers are paid a consolidated pay of Rs.15,000/- per month by the Government. A sum of Rs.8.56 lakh has been provided in the Budget 2021-2022 for the purpose.

6.7 ASSISTANCE TO LAW GRADUATES

Differently Abled Persons who have completed Law Degrees and enrolled in the Bar Council are given an assistance of

Rs.50,000/- each for purchasing law books and a sum of Rs.10 lakh has been provided in the Budget 2021-2022.

7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Government are providing various avenues for the development of the Differently Abled Persons socially as well as economically and they are detailed below:-

7.1.EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN GOVERNMENT

Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provide 4% reservation in employment for the Differently Abled Persons in all the Government Departments / Public Sector Undertakings / Local Bodies / Government Schools including aided schools etc and it also

provides that the posts that are suitable for the Differently Abled Persons may be identified and the reservation made. Accordingly, all posts falling under the categories of 'C' and 'D' in all the Government Departments have been identified as suitable for them. Similarly, Government has issued orders identifying 559 posts so far in the 'A' & 'B' categories. While continuous efforts are being taken to fill up the posts reserved for the Differently Abled, a Special Recruitment Drive has been ordered to be conducted to fill up the backlog vacancies. As on date 1645 Differently Abled Persons have been appointed against the reservation.

7.2. EMPLOYMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR

The Government is assisting the Differently Abled Persons in getting jobs in private sector also by conducting job fairs. Private entities that

provide best employment opportunities to the Differently Abled Persons are given Awards during the International Differently Abled Day celebrations.

7.3.INCENTIVE FOR CLEARING COMPETITIVE EXAMS

Differently Abled candidates who pass the preliminary exams in the Civil Services conducted by the UPSC and the Group-I Services conducted by the TNPSC are given an incentive of Rs.50,000/- each. During 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.4.50 lakh is provided for this scheme.

7.4 SELF EMPLOYMENT

While the Government is taking all efforts to provide appropriate job opportunities to the Differently Abled Persons in Government and Private sectors, earnest efforts are also taken to improve their socio-economic condition by

encouraging them to undertake self employment. To achieve this goal, the Government is implementing several schemes as explained below:-

7.4.1. PROVISION OF MOTORISED SEWING MACHINES

Motorised sewing machines are provided to the Differently Abled Persons and to the mothers of the severely affected intellectually disabled candidates, A sum of Rs.147.63 lakh has been provided in 2021-2022 for the purpose.

7.4.2. SUBSIDY FOR MICRO ENTERPRISES AND BUNK STALLS

To encourage the Differently Abled Persons to commence their own micro enterprises and bunk stalls, a subsidy of Rs.25,000/- is being provided. In the Budget for

2021-2022, a sum of Rs.400 lakh has been provided. The scheme has benefitted 1191 persons during the year 2020-2021.

7.4.3.PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

Differently Abled Persons who obtain bank loan for commencing their ventures are required to pay 5% of the loan amount as margin money. The Government gives this margin money as grant and to avail this grant, they have to apply through the District Industries Centre and the Committee headed by the District Collector concerned selects the beneficiaries. Rs.5.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget for 2021-2022 for the purpose. During the year 2020-2021, 20 persons have been benefitted.

7.4.4.UNEMPLOYED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME(UYEGP)

This scheme catering to the needs of the unemployed persons, also provides the 5% margin money required for obtaining bank loan and the beneficiaries under this scheme are also selected by the District Collector concerned. Rs.10.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget for 2021-2022 for the purpose. During the year 2020-2021, 65 persons have been benefitted.

7.4.5.ASSISTANCE BY THE NATIONAL HANDICAPPED FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NHFDC)

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is granting interest-free loans to the Differently Abled Persons to initiate self-employment ventures

through the Tamil Nadu State Central Cooperative Bank Limited. Every year a sizeable number of persons are availing this facility. During the year 2020-2021, 5969 persons have been benefitted.

7.4.6.SUBSIDY FOR ESTABLISHING AAVIN PARLOUR

Differently Abled Persons intending to establish Aavin parlours are required to pay Rs.25,000/- as deposit. Along with this, a further sum of Rs.25,000/- to buy Aavin products totaling Rs.50,000/- is being paid by the Government as subsidy for establishing an Aavin parlour. For the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.100.00 lakh has been provided for this scheme. During the year 2020-2021, 198 persons have been benefitted under the scheme.

7.5 PROVIDING TRAINING

The Department provides various training to the Differently Abled Persons so as to develop their skills for more job opportunities. They are as follows:-

7.5.1 BOOK BINDER TRAINING

The Government Higher Secondary School for the visually impaired at Ponnammallee provides the Book Binder training to 22 visually impaired persons and the trainees are paid a stipend of Rs.300/- per month. During the year 2021-2022 a sum of Rs.20.17 lakh has been provided in the budget for the purpose.

7.5.2.MULTIMEDIA AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING

Locomotor Differently Abled Persons and hearing impaired persons are provided with one

month training in Multimedia and Digital Photography at the Regional Office, National Film Development Corporation Limited, Chennai. A sum of Rs. 37.38 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme. In the year 2020-2021, 250 persons have been trained.

7.5.3. FITTER TRAINING FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Hearing Impaired Persons are imparted Fitter training at the Government ITI at Guindy and every year 21 candidates are trained. A stipend of Rs.300/- per month during the training period is given to them. In the year 2020-2021, 8 persons have been trained.

8. PROVISION OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES

The Government while constantly endeavouring to provide barrier free environment for the Differently Abled Persons in all public places also provide assistive devices to them to ensure their hassle-free mobility and independent living. The assistive devices given by the Government include Tricycles, Foldable Wheel Chairs, Plastic calipers, Metal Calipers, Crutches, Artificial Limbs, Goggles, Magnifiers, Braille Watches etc. A sum of Rs. 206.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme. In the year 2020-2021, these assistive devices have been provided to 2923 persons.

Apart from the above, the Government is also providing certain special assistive devices. They are as follows:-

8.1. RETROFITTED PETROL SCOOTERS

To aid the smooth movement of the Differently Aabled Persons, retrofitted petrol scooters are provided to them. The scheme has been in existence for the past 10 years and till the previous year it has been provided to 13,209 persons at a total cost of Rs.7912.94 lakh. A sum of Rs.4568.30 lakh has been provided in the Budget for 2021-2022 for the scheme.

8.2. BEHIND THE EAR HEARING AIDS

Behind the ear hearing aids are provided to the hearing impaired so as to enhance their hearing ability. It is intended to provide these hearing aids to 4000 beneficiaries during the year 2021-2022 at a cost of Rs.200.00 lakh.

8.3. MODIFIED WHEEL CHAIRS FOR THE PERSONS AFFECTED BY CEREBRAL PALSY

To aid the easy mobility of the persons affected with Cerebral Palsy, modified wheel chairs are provided to them. So far these wheel chairs have been provided to 4013 persons at a total cost of Rs.227.86 lakh. A sum of Rs.72.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget for 2021-2022 for the purpose.

8.4. REFLECTIVE FOLDING STICKS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Reflective folding sticks are provided for the visually impaired to enable their free mobility. Rs.210.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget for 2021-2022 for the purpose.

8.5. WALKING DEVICE FOR THE CHILDREN

Young children with locomotor disability are provided with the walking device. Rs.20.00 lakh is the budget provision for the year 2021-2022.

8.6 BATTERY OPERATED WHEEL CHAIR

Persons with locomotor disability are provided with the Battery Operated Wheel Chair to ensure their smooth mobility. The budget provision for the year 2021-2022 for the scheme is Rs.3758.00 lakh.

8.7. CORNER SEAT FOR THE CHILDREN AFFECTED WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Children affected with Cerebral Palsy and who are below three years and undergoing

training at the Early Intervention Centres are given Corner Seats.

8.8. SMART PHONES

Visually impaired and hearing impaired persons were provided with Smart phones with tailor made Apps. Totally 7813 smart phones were provided to the beneficiaries at a total cost of Rs.1000.00 lakh. During the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.1000.00 lakh has been provided for the scheme.

9. ACCESSIBILITY

Under the Rights of Person with Disabilities Rules, 2017 the Union Government has prescribed the standards relating to physical environment, transport and Information Technology. The Government of India has prescribed 'Harmonized Guidelines and Space

Standards for Barrier Free Built Environment for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly Persons' to be followed while constructing buildings, standard for 'Bus body Code' for transportation and standard for 'Websites' so as to make them accessible. The Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department has issued orders making it mandatory to have lifts, ramp, special toilet, Braille signage and vehicle parking for the Differently Abled Persons in the newly constructed buildings with more than two floors.

9.1. ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN

The Union Government has embarked on a mission called 'Accessible India Campaign' through which funds are sanctioned to make the Government buildings barrier free. In the first stage, 16 buildings in Chennai and Coimbatore have been made accessible at a cost of

Rs.22.08 crore. Out of this, the Union Government has released a sum of Rs.11.04 crore and work has been completed. Further sanction of funds from the Union Government is awaited. In the second stage, funds to the tune of Rs.28.56 crore has been sanctioned by the Union Government for 14 buildings and the work is to be commenced shortly.

In order to make more buildings barrier free, Government has conducted access audit in 72 buildings in Chennai City.

Further, 176 buildings at various places across the State have been conducted with access audit.

Apart from the above, funds have been sanctioned to conduct access audit in 200 tourist places and 790 buildings including all the Revenue Divisional Offices and Taluk Offices,

Block Development Offices in the State and the work is going on.

9.2 INSTALLATION OF AUDITORY SIGNALS

In order to alert the visually impaired persons at the traffic junctions, auditory traffic signals have been installed at 150 places across Chennai City. An audio alert system has been installed in 75 buses in Chennai City.

10. VARIOUS ALLOWANCES

To alleviate the economic condition of the Differently Abled Persons, the Government is granting different types of allowances to them and they are detailed as follows:-

10.1. UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE

Differently Abled Persons who are registered with the Employment Exchanges for more than a year and are still unemployed are

granted this allowance at the rate of Rs.600/- per month for 10th Standard completed, Rs.750/- per month for 12th Standard completed and Rs.1000/- per month for Graduation completed.

A sum of Rs. 2000.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme. During the year 2020-2021, the allowance was provided to 16597 beneficiaries.

10.2 MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

As a measure of support to the severely affected persons, Government grants a Maintenance Allowance of Rs.1500/- per month. The maintenance allowance provided to the various kinds of differently abled persons are as follows:-

| Sl. No | Category of Disability | Criteria (Percentage of Disability) | No of beneficiaries |
|---------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Persons with intellectual disability | 40% and above | 183352 |
| 2 | Severely affected persons | 75% and above | |
| 3 | Persons affected with Parkinson's disease, Spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis | 40% and above | 1695 |
| 4 | Persons affected with muscular dystrophy | 40% and above | 3422 |
| 5 | Leprosy affected persons | 40% and above | 7675 |
| Total | | | 196144 |

During the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.40463.59 lakh has been provided in the Budget for this scheme. It has also been proposed to cover more number of beneficiaries.

10.3.ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH HIGH SUPPORT NEED

Differently Abled Persons who require High Support Need can engage an assistant to fulfill their needs and such an assistant is being paid a sum of Rs.1000/- per month by the Government. A sum of Rs.96.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget for 2021-2022 for the scheme.

10.4 MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE

In order to encourage marriages involving a Differently Abled person, cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- and 8 grams of gold for making Thirumangalyam is given. Rs.50,000/- will be given as cash assistance if any one of the couple is a graduate or diploma holder. Out of the total cash assistance, 50% is given in cash and the remaining 50% is given in the form of National Savings Certificate.

All the eligible persons who apply for the assistance are granted with the same and for the year 2021-2022, a sum of Rs.545.86 lakh has been sanctioned for the purpose.

10.5.TAMIL NADU WELFARE BOARD FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

The Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the Differently Abled has been constituted by the Government for recommending various welfare schemes to be implemented for the benefit of the Differently Abled Persons. As recommended by the Board, the following welfare schemes are implemented by the Government:-

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| (1) | Personal accident relief: | |
| | The Compensation provided under the scheme is as follows: | |
| | (a) | Death due to accident |
| | (b) | Loss of both lower or upper limb/ both eyes or total dysfunction and irrecoverable loss of limbs |
| | | Rs.1,00,000/- |
| | | 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 due to the 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 for the natural death of a differently abled person | | Rs.15,000/- | |
| (4) | Annual Assistance for education of son and daughter of a differently abled person: | | | |
| | (a) | (i) | Daughter studying in Tenth standard | Rs.1,000/- |
| | | (ii) | Son or daughter who passed the Tenth standard examination | Rs.1,000/- |
| | (b) | (i) | Daughter studying in Eleventh standard | Rs.1,000/- |
| | (c) | (i) | Daughter studying in Twelfth standard | Rs.1,500/- |
| | | (ii) | If son or daughter who passed Twelfth standard | |
| (d) | (i) | Son or daughter studying in regular Bachelor Degree course (for every academic year of the course) | Rs.1,500/- | |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-------|---|------------|
| | | (ii) | Son or daughter studying in the Bachelor Degree course and staying in the hostel. | Rs.1,750/- |
| | | (iii) | Son or daughter studying in regular Post Graduate Course (for every academic year of the course) | Rs.2,000/- |
| | | (iv) | Son or daughter studying the PG course and staying in the hostel | Rs.3,000/- |
| | (e) | (i) | Son or daughter studying a Professional Course in Law / Engineering / Medical/ Veterinary Science/ Allied Courses (for every academic year of the course) | Rs.2,000/- |
| | | (ii) | Son or daughter studying in the professional course and staying in the hostel | Rs.4,000/- |
| | | (iii) | Son or daughter studying a Post Graduate Professional Course (for every academic year of the course) | Rs.4,000/- |
| | | (iv) | Son or daughter studying the PG Professional course and staying in the hostel | Rs.6,000/- |
| | (f) | (i) | Son or daughter studying in Industrial Training Institute or Polytechnic Course. (for every academic year of the course) | Rs.1,000/- |

| | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|---|------------|
| | | (ii) | Son or daughter studying the ITI/Polytechnic course and staying in the hostel | Rs.1,200/- |
| 5 | Assistance for Marriage (any one of the couple is eligible for or this assistance) | | | Rs.2,000/- |
| 6. | Assistance for differently abled female members for | | | |
| | (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 differently abled person | | | Rs. 500/- |

Rs.329.62 lakh has been provided in the Budget for the year 2021-2022.

11. TRAVEL CONCESSION

Differently Abled Persons who possess the National Disability Identity Card are granted concession in buses operated by the Government Transport Corporations. The different types of concession granted are as follows:-

11.1. 100% FREE TRAVEL

Differently Abled Persons who are visually impaired are allowed to travel free of cost if the distance travelled is within 100 kilometres. Other categories of Differently Abled Persons are eligible for free travel, if they travel between their place of residence and place of education, while visiting hospitals, while undergoing training and to undertake employment. Intellectually challenged persons can travel with one escort.

11.2. 75% TRAVEL CONCESSION

All categories of Differently Abled Persons are permitted to avail this concession irrespective of the distance and the number of trips they travel in all State Transport Corporation Buses. An escort is also allowed to travel at the concessional fare if the Differently Abled Person cannot travel alone. A sum of Rs.3300.00 lakh

has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme.

12. NATIONAL TRUST FOR THE WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY (CP), MENTAL RETARDATION (MR), AND PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES ACT, 1999

The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Autism and Persons with Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 has been enacted to provide for setting up of Local Level Committees (LLC) under the chairmanship of the District Collector to appoint legal guardians besides providing other welfare programme for the above categories of differently abled persons. During 2020-2021, 2031 guardianship certificates have been issued to differently abled persons under National Trust Act.

13. CHIEF MINISTER'S COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

This scheme provides for Health Insurance Scheme for families with less than Rs.72,000/- as annual income. If any one of the family member is a Differently Abled Person, then the entire family is eligible for the insurance irrespective of the income ceiling. Treatments like Cochlear implant surgeries, corrective surgeries, fitting of functional limbs etc are also done along with the permissible treatments.

14. AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Government conducts awareness programme in all the districts regarding the various schemes implemented for the welfare of the Differently Abled Persons and a sum of Rs.6.40 lakh has been provided in the Budget 2021-2022 for the purpose.

15. AWARDS

It is imperative that the individuals / organizations who excel in providing services to the Differently Abled Persons are suitably rewarded and the State Government recognizes their services by felicitating them with awards during the Independence Day and on the International Day for the Differently Abled. The details of these awards are as follows:-

15.1 INDEPENDENCE DAY AWARDS

The awards given during the Independence Day are as below:-

| Sl. No. | Name of the Award | Nature of Award |
|---------|---|--|
| 1. | Best Institution for providing employment opportunity | 10 grams of gold medal and Certificate. |
| 2. | Best Non-Governmental Organisation | 10 grams of gold medal, cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and certificate. |

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 3. | Best Social Worker | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate. |
| 4. | Best Doctor | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate. |
| 5. | Best Collector | 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. 5.24 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme.

15.2.INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS AWARDS

On the occasion of the International Day of the Differently Abled Persons, which is celebrated on the 3rd of December, the Government gives away different categories of

awards who excel in the services rendered to the Differently Abled Persons. Details of the same are as follows:-

| Sl. No. | Name of the Award | No. of Award | Nature of Award |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. | Best Institution | 1 Award | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate |
| 2. | Best Social Worker Award | 1 Award | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate |
| 3. | Best Teacher Award (3 categories) | 3 Awards | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate |
| 4. | Best Employee Award (5 categories) | 5 Awards | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate |
| 5. | Best Employer Award | 1 Award | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate |
| 6. | Best EIC Teacher | 2 Awards | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate |
| 7. | Best Driver and Best Conductor Award | 2 Awards | 10 grams of gold medal and certificate |
| Total Awards | | 15 Awards | |

On this day, Special Casual Leave is granted to all the Differently Abled Persons working in Government Departments and Undertakings so as to enable their participation in the celebrations.

Each district is provided with a sum of Rs.50,000/- for the conduct of the celebrations and a sum of Rs.37.77 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2021-2022 for this scheme.

16. NEW INITIATIVES

This Government attaches much importance for the welfare of the Differently Abled Persons and is consistently undertaking new initiatives for their upliftment. Some of them are enlisted below:-

- i) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides that the 'Equal Opportunity Policy' in both Government and Private establishment employing more than 20 persons may be brought out providing identification of posts for Differently Abled Persons, method of recruitment and appointment etc and accessibility of work places for them. The Commissioner of Labour is appointed as the nodal officer to coordinate with private establishments other than factories and the Director of Industrial Safety and Health is appointed as the nodal officer to coordinate with the factories in bringing out the Equal Opportunity Policy.
- ii) Differently Abled Persons along with their escort have been permitted to travel free in

all City ordinary fare buses run by the Government Transport Corporations.

- iii) In the wake of the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, sensing the vulnerability of the Differently Abled students, Government have granted exemption for the students appearing for the Supplementary Exams for 12th Standard held in August 2021.
- iv) To clear all the applications pending for sanction of maintenance allowance, an additional sum of Rs.404.00 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimate for 2021-2022.
- v) With a view to provide assistive devices to all the applied persons, an additional sum of Rs.62.50 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimate for 2021-2022.

- vi) In order to enable the differently abled persons to get the assistive device of their own choice. It has also been proposed to provide a standard financial assistance for the purchase of the assistive device as per the choice of the beneficiary. If the cost of the assistive device based on the choice of the beneficiary is more than the financial assistance provided by the Government then the remaining amount will have to be borne by the beneficiary themselves.
- vii) The Government has embarked on a novel project called "RIGHTS" with assistance from the World Bank. The scheme is one of its kind and it's a premier one not only in the Country but also in the World. The scheme aims at expanding the services centre of the department up to the

sub-division , block and community level in such a way that no Differently Abled Person is left out of any assistance provided by the Government. The scheme is proposed to be implemented with an outlay of Rs.1702 crore spread over a period of six years. There are four main components of the scheme and they are:-

- (a) Putting in place a robust mechanism for identification and inclusion of persons with disabilities: process mapping existing scheme, mechanism for registration and certification, Integrated MIS and delivery system.
- (b) Improving coverage and outreach of prevention care and rehabilitation services: life skills education

and empowerment, employment opportunities.

(c) Enhancing resilience and productivity of persons with disabilities: equipment for neighbourhood services and community based rehabilitation specialist, Integrated social care and rehabilitation services in subdivision headquarters, one stop care centre at block headquarters, mobile outreach and therapy van, accessible infrastructure and housing and transportation, innovation fund for extending outreach and coverage.

(d) Institutional capacity building and implementation support: project implementation manual, field implementation guidelines and standard

of care, facilitate human resource strengthening and performance management system, setting up of M & E system and process evaluations, strengthening of Financial management systems, training and capacity buildings of human resources.

- viii) The 'Unique Disability Identity Card' (UDID card) issued by the department enables the Differently Abled Persons with proper identity and it helps them in easy identification for receiving the various assistances from the Government. So far, more than 3.18 lakh UDID cards have been issued. To speed up the process, the Revenue Department has been involved in helping the Differently Abled Persons in filling the requisite forms and

collecting required documents and all the rejected applications are revisited. Further, additional Doctors to issue the disability certificate have been engaged and additional Data Entry Operators to scrutinize the applications forms have been employed.

ix) To improve the ease of doing business, the following will be digitized:-

a) Form I of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 relating to Six monthly Employer's returns to be submitted to the Special Employment Exchange.

b) Form II of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 relating to Occupational returns to be submitted by the Employer to the Special

Employment Exchange once in two years.

- c) Form III of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 relating to returns to be maintained by a Government establishment relating to employment of Persons with Disabilities.
- d) Form I of the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 relating to application form to be submitted for appointment of limited guardian.
- e) Form III of the Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 relating to application form for Certificate/ Renewal of Registration.

17. CONCLUSION

The Government recognized the requirement of the Differently Abled Persons and is continuously implementing various welfare measures and take measures to address issues face by them. It is the commitment of the Government to empower the Differently Abled Persons and remove any factor which hampers their full and effective participation in society.

**M.K.STALIN
CHIEF MINISTER**



**Alternative and Augmentative
Communication Device
with AVAZ Software**



Angel Pro Daisy Digital Player



Artificial Limb



Braille Watch for Visually Challenged



Behind the Ear Hearing Aid



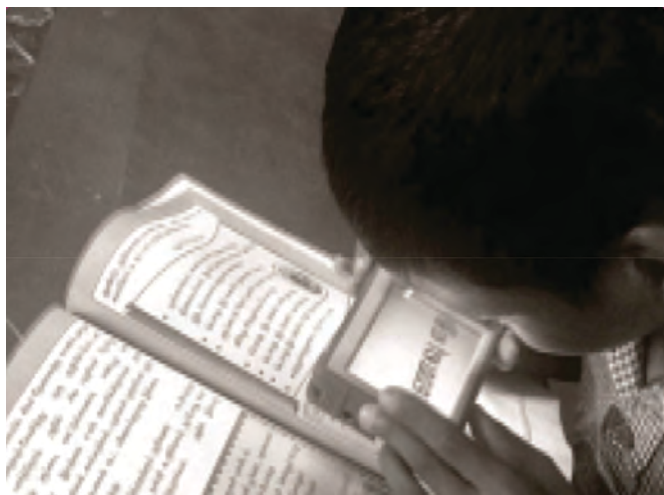
**Special Wheel Chair for persons
affected with Cerebral Palsy**



Crutches



Goggles



Magnifier



Retrofitted Petrol Scooter



Tricycle



Walking Device for Children



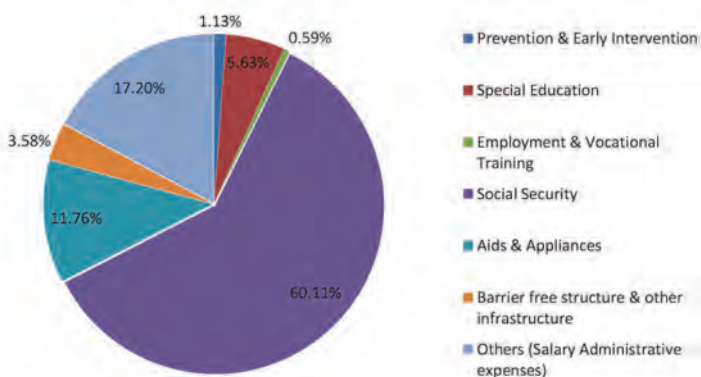
Foldable Wheel Chair



Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the new building for District Differently Abled Welfare office at Tirunelveli on 31.7.2021

Total Budget allocation for the Year 2021-22 Rs.81362.56 lakh Sector wise allocation

| S.No | Services/Sector | Amount (in lakh) | Percentage of allocation |
|------|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Prevention & Early intervention | 926.55 | 1.13 |
| 2 | Special Education | 4588.23 | 5.63 |
| 3 | Employment & Vocational Training | 484.95 | 0.59 |
| 4 | Social security (Maintenance allowance & free travel concession, assistance to institution) | 48913.28 | 60.11 |
| 5 | Aids & Appliances | 9570.50 | 11.76 |
| 6 | Barrier free structure & other infrastructure | 2918.63 | 3.58 |
| 7 | Others (Salary Administrative expenses) | 13960.42 | 17.20 |
| | TOTAL | 81362.56 | 100 |



**Comparative Status of Allocation
(2020-21 and 2021-22)**

