

**CONFERENCE OF REVENUE MINISTERS NEW DELHI THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2012**  
**SPEECH OF THIRU. THOPPU N.D VENKATACHALAM**  
**HON'BLE MINISTER FOR REVENUE, GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**

Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Hon'ble Ministers for Revenue from Various States, Officers of Government of India and State Governments,

This meeting has been convened with the objective of discussing the progress of the States and Union Territories in Computerisation of Land Records and the services extended to citizens and also about the Plan of action for ushering in the system of *Conclusive Titling*.

The Survey and Settlement Department is one of the oldest departments in Tamil Nadu. The organized system of land survey and collection of Land Revenue was commenced during the reign of King Raja Raja I of the Imperial Chola dynasty. He conducted a systematic Survey in 1002 A.D. – which is considered to be the first Cadastral Survey in South India. This has undergone various stages of improvements and has reached the current stage of modern survey using Global Positioning Systems and Electronic Total Stations. This department has performed traditional survey using Chains, Cross-Staffs and Theodolites during the British period and created maps with mathematically proven accuracy for every piece of land in the State. The State has Field Measurement Sketches for every land parcel. Also, clear ownership records have been created through proper settlement processes. As such, **Tamil Nadu headed by our Honourable Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA, is considered to be the forerunner to all the States in the Country in Land Administration.**

Regarding the current status of computerization of land records, I wish to enumerate the good works done and goals achieved in Tamil Nadu under the guidance of the **Honourable Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA.**

**(i) Regarding Supply of computers and accessories**

- Computers and accessories have been installed in all the Taluk Offices / Revenue Divisional Offices / District Collectorates / District and Regional Survey Offices. Also, the Directorate of Survey and Settlement in Chennai has been fully computerized.
- As per the orders of the **Honourable Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA** new procedures have been laid down stipulating time frames for the processing and issue of Patta to eliminate undue delays that caused distress to the public. Through the new procedures, applications seeking **name transfer in land registry are carried out in 15 days and applications involving sub-dividing of land parcels will be carried out in 30 days.**
- As per the orders of the **Honourable Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA**, in the year 2011-12, *Two Nos.* of Computers, Laserjet Printers, UPS and Computer furniture and a Multifunction Device (Mini Copier cum Scanner cum Printer – for Survey Sections) have been provided to each of the 220 Taluk Offices for expediting the Patta Transfer work.

**(ii) Regarding computerization of land records**

- Basic land records pertaining to rural areas viz. 'A' Register, Chitta and Adangal have been computerized. Maintenance of land records in respect of rural areas are being carried out in Taluk Offices through computers using the software '*TAMIL NILAM*' (Tamil Nadu Infosystem on Land Administration and Management) developed by the National Informatics Centre.

- **I wish to proudly inform that in the year 2002 itself, Touch Screen Computer Kiosks have been installed in Taluk Offices to facilitate viewing and printing of Land Records extracts.**
- The land records so far computerized have been hosted in the internet under the e-service called "Anytime Anywhere Land Records" in the website {HYPERLINK "http://eservices.tn.gov.in"}. Through this portal, public can access the land information like 'A' Register, Chitta, Government Poramboke lands etc. from anywhere at anytime.
- Data entry of urban land records has been commenced in Chennai in the year 2009-10 through this department's staff. More than 50% of the data entry has been completed in the huge metropolis of Chennai so far. Now, it has been proposed to computerize the land records of all the urban areas (municipalities and corporations) within a definite time-frame.

### **(iii) Regarding Digitisation of Field Measurement Sketches**

- Digitization of Field Measurement Sketches is under progress using '*COLLABLAND*' Software developed by the National Informatics Centre. For this purpose, computer cells have been created in 29 districts and 20 Nos. of computers and peripherals have been installed in each district. The digitization of Field Measurement Sketches is performed through the staff of the Survey Department. So far, around 13 Lakh Field Measurement Sketches (FMS) out of around 53 Lakh FMS, have been digitized.

### **(iv) Training to staff**

- Training has been provided to around 9000 officials of both Revenue and Survey department. Training infrastructures have been created / improved in Survey offices. Training has been imparted to around 2300 officials so far at the Centre for Survey Training And Research (CSTAR) in Anna University in Chennai.
- A Survey Training Institute is functioning in Orathanadu in Thanjavur District from the year 1985. Training has been imparted

to around 13000 officials of various departments so far in this institute. Using the funds sanctioned under this scheme, computers and accessories have been supplied to Survey Training Institute. Action has been pursued to provide GPS, Total Stations, Plotter, etc. to the Institute

### **(v) Preservation of old records**

- All the village maps (around 17000) and Town maps have been scanned and preserved in raster image format at the Computerised Cartographic Centre of the Central Survey Office, Chennai.
- The Central Survey Office has been computerized and scanning old survey records is in progress there. These are priceless legacy records dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century AD. More funds from Government of India are required for this activity.
- Copies of Village / District / Block maps are being provided to the public at nominal costs at the Central Survey Office in Chennai. Computer Cells have also been established at the Regional Survey Offices (in Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Chennai) to sell maps to the public.

### **(vi) Modern Survey**

- Survey using Global Positioning Systems and Electronic Total Stations was conducted on pilot basis in one village initially and then using the experience gained, this scheme has been extended further. Modern Surveying is now in progress in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, the Nilgiris, etc.

- It has been proposed to initially introduce modern survey in the newly created municipal areas for which land records have to be prepared afresh by adopting Town Survey System. Accordingly, preliminary work has been commenced in 11 Municipalities so far.
- Action has been pursued to create Modern Survey Scheme Offices in 8 districts with all facilities like Computers and accessories, Total Stations, Plotters, Mapping Software, etc.

**(vii) NLRMP**

- Under the National Land Records Modernisation Programme, action has been pursued for the Creation of Land Record Management Centres in the 10 Taluks of Kancheepuram District and 11 Taluks of Thirunelveli District and for setting up NLRMP Cell at the Survey Training Institute, Orathanadu.

**(viii) Action Plan for ushering in Conclusive Titling**

- The NLRMP envisages online, automated mutation of Land Records through integration of Registration process with the land records maintenance system, to facilitate online delivery of 'Conclusive Title'.
- In order to reach the stage of conferring Conclusive Titles, four fundamental principles need to be in place. The first of those four fundamental principles is 'there should be a single agency to handle property records.' In Tamil Nadu, Land Records are prepared by Survey Department and maintained by both Revenue and Survey officials. This system is working fine and this may continue.
- The second principle is "*Mirror*" principle which requires that at any given moment, the property records should mirror ground reality, i.e., they should be "real-time records". Since land records of rural area have already been computerized, once the data entry of land records of urban area is completed special drive for the updation of land records will be implemented. Web-based software for the online updation of Land Records will be very useful for this purpose. Hence, for achieving this, the responsibility of developing Web-based software applications for online management of land records has been entrusted to the State National Informatics Centre. On receipt of Detailed Project Proposal from National Informatics Centre, funds will be sought under NLRMP from the Government of India.

I thank one and all for this opportunity and conclude this speech.

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