

PRESS RELEASE

11th (2nd round) State Level Empowered Committee of Special Area Development Programme held on 10.11.2020 at 11.00 AM.

State Level Empowered Committee of Special Area Development Programme was held on 10.11.2020 at 11.00 AM through webinar under the Chairmanship Hon'ble Vice-Chairman Thiru. C. Ponnayian.

Tmt. Jayashree Raghunandan, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning & Development Department, Dr. B.C. Archana Kalyani, IFS., Head of Division (Land Use) and Tmt. K.M. Sarayu, IAS., Project Director, HADP, Unit-I, Ooty, Thiru. M.Vadivel Additional Secretary, MAWS, Tmt. Madhu Indira Priyadharshini, Additional Director, RD & DP and Official various Departments participated in the Meeting.

The Special Area Development Programme (SADP) is being implemented in Tamil Nadu from the year 2015-16. Prior to that the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) and Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) were implemented in Tamil Nadu from 1975-76 onwards with 90% financial assistance from the Government of India, while the balance of 10% was initially a loan and later become State's share.

In the Union Budget 2015-16, Government of India announced that the HADP/WGDP schemes will be delinked from the Central Assistance from the year 2015-16 onwards and stated that the schemes may be continued from the available resources of the State Government. As an immedi

ate follows up, in the Budget 2015-16, the State Government announced that a new scheme, the Special Area Development Programme with an annual outlay of Rs.75.00 Crore would be implemented covering the hilly areas of the State.

The main objectives of the these programmes such as eco-preservation and eco-restoration with a focus on sustainable use of biodiversity, the needs and aspirations of local communities, ensuring community participation in the design and implementation of strategies for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods, watershed based development on a participatory approach for ensuring efficiency, transparency and accountability have been continued. Further SADP also intends to focus on the buffer zone adjoining the protected forests area, which often suffer from lack of investment as they fall neither in the forests areas nor close to habitations but are critical to soil and water conservation. Hence, the scope of SADP would cover the interaction between water and production landscapes and human livelihood: water and ecosystem services and water biodiversity. There would be focus on enhancing livelihood opportunities in their localities based on micro watershed based planning.

During this Covid-19 Pandemic period, this government under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister has reduced the administry cost considerably, but pumping more money on development schemes such as Special Area Development Programme. An amount of Rs.75 crore has been allocated for implementation of SADP for the year 2020-21. From the year 2016-17 to 2019-20 an amount of Rs.250 crore is allocated for this scheme and around Rs,249 crore was released to the various departments for implementing SADP scheme.

For the year 2020-21, during 2nd round, about 116 schemes with total cost of Rs. 3263.649 lakhs were taken up for screening during the meeting. 8 projects of Agricultural Department at a cost of Rs.83.179 lakhs, 58 projects of Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department at a cost of Rs.991.990 lakhs, 34 project of Rural Development Department at a cost of Rs.1930.070 lakhs, 16 project of Animal Husbandry Department at a cost of Rs.258.500 lakhs were taken up during the meeting for approval.

The State Government has also been implementing schemes for the welfare of the tribals and other population living in the areas prone to leftwing extremism along the border areas of the State in the districts of Dindigul, Madurai, Theni, Erode, Coimbatore and Nilgiris. The nature of the works implemented in the Maoist prone areas was also similar to what was taken up under Hill Area Development Programme and the Western Ghats Development Programme.

A 'Dashboard' exclusively for SADP has been developed and launched and the processing and appraisal of proposals is done through online process. **Web Monitoring System** has also been established for the effective and quick monitoring the projects of Special Area Development Programme.

Head of Division (Land Use)
State Development Policy Council

Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.