

**PRESS RELEASE**

**11th State Level Empowered Committee of Special Area Development Programme held on 15.10.2020 at 11.30 AM.**

State Level Empowered Committee of Special Area Development Programme was held on 15.10.2020 at 11.30 AM through webinar under the Chairmanship Hon'ble Vice-Chairman Thiru.C.Ponnayian. Tmt. Jayshree Raghunadan, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development, Thiru.S.Krishnan, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Dr. Sekar kumar Neeraj IFS., Special Secretary to Government, Environment and Forest, Thiru.Anil Meshram, IAS., Member-Secretary, State Deveopment Policy Council, Tmt. Saryu, IAS., Project Director, HADP, Dr. B.C. Archana Kalayani, IFS., Head of Division, (LU) and Official various Departments participated in the webinar.

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

immediate follow 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 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 administrative 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, on first instant, about 40 schemes with total cost of Rs.11.55 crore was taken up screening during this meeting. 32 projects of Agricultural Engineering Department at a cost of Rs.10.50, 1 project of Agriculture Department at a cost of Rs.0.12 crore, and 1 project of Horticulture Department at a cost of Rs.0.93 crore was considered 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 Nilgris. 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.

Member Secretary

State Development Policy Council

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