



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

**POLICY NOTE
2020 – 2021**

DEMAND No. 52

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MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND
NUTRITIOUS NOON MEAL PROGRAMME**



**Government of Tamil Nadu
2020**

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DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

POLICY NOTE

2020-2021

INTRODUCTION:

Tamil Nadu Government is recognized to be one of the best in the State when it comes to the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. In order to achieve all round development of differently abled persons, Government of Tamil Nadu has created a separate Directorate for the Differently Abled Persons in 1993 by bifurcating the Social Welfare Department. Based on the State Policy, which was formulated in 1994 several initiatives have been taken by the State Government, focusing on comprehensive rehabilitation and inclusion of differently abled persons in the society. District level rehabilitation officers have been appointed in all Districts since 1995 for the implementation of the schemes.

The recent Parliamentary Committee Report on the Department of Disability Affairs for the year 2017-18 has mentioned that only six out of 36 States and Union Territories have dedicated departments and district officers for the differently abled and it is a matter of pride that Tamil Nadu is one among them.

It has been consistent in enabling this population in the state, in all spheres of their life thereby being awarded the “Best State award” in this regard, since 2013 when it was first introduced in the country. Other accolades received by the state include the titles like, “Best District” and “Best channelising Agencies of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation award”, (Tamil Nadu State Apex Co- operative bank).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The 17 SDGs are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by 193 Member States including India at the UN General Assembly Summit. It is required to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable

development in a balanced manner. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, the Goals and targets address all nations and people and for all segments of Society. As part of this, all countries committed to “Leave No One Behind (LNOB),” a broad promise to address the pervasive and damaging problems of inequality and exclusion. The 2015 SDG agreement even doubled down on this commitment through a pledge to “reach the farthest behind first.”

Every year 3rd December is celebrated as the “International day of the Differently Abled” by the State Government in accordance with the declaration of the United Nations Organization. This is observed to raise awareness throughout the society regarding the persons with disabilities and to foster respect for their needs and rights in the society and to encourage the differently abled persons to show their different skills and abilities in the field of art, culture and sports.

The department is implementing plethora of schemes to promote the welfare of Differently Abled Persons which helps to achieve the indicators thereby

targets in almost all goals of SDGs, since the underlying principles of SDGs are inclusiveness and 'Leave No One Behind'." SDG unit has been formed in Welfare Differently Abled Persons Department vide G.O (Ms.) No: 9 dated 27.12.2019 to set up systems and mechanisms for enabling focus to be brought for achievement of SDGs.

The State has issued so far 13,25,857 certificates of disability and passbooks which are the basic documents for all the differently abled persons to get benefit under various welfare schemes. Steps are being taken to identify and issue disability certificates for the newly included 21 categories of persons with disabilities as defined in Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Various schemes of the department like (i) Nutritional intervention and career guidance and counseling for special students in Government special schools, (ii) Feeding grant for hostellers who are in Government recognized special schools, (iii) Educational scholarships, Readers allowance, Scribe

assistance, Free electronic devices to visually impaired, cash incentives to prevent dropouts, (iv) Government care camps to prevent crime of begging and to rehabilitate beggars, (v) Government rehabilitation homes (vi) special rehabilitation homes for intellectual disabilities and mentally ill, (vii) Weaning food and Supplementary nutritious food in Early Intervention center, (viii) Screening and identification of children with disabilities, (ix) Mobile therapy unit and (x) Day care center for persons with muscular dystrophy and intellectual disability address the Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 3 (Health for all) and Goal 4 (Quality Education)

The Social security schemes such as (i) CM's comprehensive health insurance scheme covering all the family members without income ceiling in case of family having differently abled persons, (ii) Marriage assistance to facilitate economic empowerment and inclusion in the community and to encourage normal person to marry the differently abled persons, (iii) Unemployment allowance in accordance with their educational qualification, (iv) Maintenance allowance

without income ceiling and (v) Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for Differently Abled Persons to assist Persons with Disabilities including their family members with various social security benefits address Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), and Goal 3 (Health for all).

The schemes such as (i) All existing /new public buildings to be made accessible by Persons with Disabilities in accordance with Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, (ii) Installation of Auditory signals at traffic junctions and audio alert system at Government buses for visually impaired, (iii) Sign language interpreter and (iv) Distribution of special assistive devices - Retrofitted scooters, Behind the Ear hearing aids, Modified wheel chairs, Modular reflecting folding sticks, Walking device and Battery operated wheel chair address Goal 10 (Reduce Inequalities), Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 15 (Life on Land).

To encourage the skills of Persons with Disabilities in various trades and to mitigate the unemployment problem, Self employment scheme,

conduct of job fair, various training programme such as Book binding, Multimedia and digital photography, Fitter etc are imparted which addresses Goal 8 (Decent work and Economic growth)

The Government is steadfast in its efforts to create a barrier free environment leading to equal opportunity for the differently abled persons in the State which would facilitate their all round development.

To bring focus on the specific reach of the various schemes by all departments, specific indicators such as (i) Number of Persons with Disabilities beneficiaries under Integrated Child Development Services, (ii) Percentage of Persons with Disabilities children aged under 5 years who are underweight, (iii) Proportion of Persons with Disabilities receiving social protection benefits, (iv) Proportion of cities with efficient urban mobility and public transport for Persons with Disabilities etc are being developed.

The State Government is performing vital role in achieving the global objectives and goals for our

country under the Sustainable Development Goals. In order to alleviate poverty which hinders development, several social security schemes have been introduced, to promote inclusive education and eliminate discrimination by providing barrier free structures, promoting accessibility and facilitating equal opportunity in all spheres of life. In order to achieve above objectives the State Government enhances the budgetary allocation every year.

As per the 2011 Census, there are 11.79 lakh differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu. This constitutes 1.63 % of the State's population and 4.4 % of the differently abled population of the country. As of January 2020, 13.35 lakh differently abled persons have been identified and ID card with disability certificate and passbook have been issued.

In addition, Unique Disability identity card is being issued to 21 categories of specified disabilities recognised in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. So far, 94,960 UDID Card has been generated and 69,607 cards has been despatched to

beneficiaries. UDID Special drive is going on to issue cards to the remaining differently abled persons.

As per “The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016”, 21 categories of disabilities have been identified. In order to formulate welfare schemes for these different categories, a State wide survey on disability has been proposed. The pilot survey has been initiated in Kanchipuram Urban, Kanchipuram district, Kadambuthur block in Tiruvallur district and Tirupathur block in Sivagangai district. Based on this experience, Statewide Survey will be conducted.

The State Government’s endaeavour is to create an inclusive society by intergrating the differently abled persons in the mainstream by eliminating all kinds of barriers to their overall development. Several innovative schemes have been introduced to prevent and control the occurrence of disabilities and to manage the disabilities.

This department is implementing plethora of schemes to promote the welfare of the differently abled

persons. These schemes touch every aspect of a persons's life starting from early detecation of disabilities and covers vital areas like early intervention, special education, skill training, employment generation, social security and accessibility.

Government of Tamil Nadu is fully committed to fulfilling its statutory duties under various legislations regarding differently abled persons. The newly enacted "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016" recognizes new categories of specified disability and also ensures the rights of differently abled persons.

The Budget Estimates for 2020-2021 is Rs.667.08 crores which is the highest ever allocation to this sector.

2. THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016:

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, enacted by Central Government came into force with effect from 19th day of April 2017. This Act aims to

protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Salient features of the Act are as follows :-

- i. Respect for inherent dignity, individual economy including freedom to make own choice and independence of persons with disabilities;
- ii. Non-discrimination;
- iii. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society; and
- iv. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity.

This new Act has included additional categories of specified disabilities which are as follows:-

- a) dwarfism, muscular dystrophy and acid attack victims;
- b) speech and language disability;
- c) specific learning disabilities;
- d) multiple sclerosis and parkinson's disease;
- e) blood disorders like "haemophilia", "thalassemia" and "sickle cell disease".

The following steps have been taken for the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

- i. The Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 has been notified in the Tamil Nadu Government gazette.
- ii. The appointment of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for monitoring the implementation of the Act has been notified.
- iii. To facilitate the Government to formulate welfare schemes for the differently abled and to guide the Government, a State Advisory Board on Disabilities has been constituted and meetings have also been conducted.
- iv. The Government has issued orders to implement 4% reservation to differently abled persons in employment in Government departments, public sector undertakings, boards, corporations and Government educational institutions and Universities.

- v. As per the Act, an Expert Committee has been constituted to identify suitable posts for persons with benchmark disabilities.
- vi. Government orders has been issued identifying 244 posts in the Group 'A' and 'B' categories as suitable for differently abled persons in Government departments. In Group 'C' and 'D' categories all posts have been identified as suitable posts and in case if any department needs exemption from reservation may seek specific order from the Government.
- vii. The Government has taken steps to reserve 5% of seats for persons with bench mark disabilities in all Government institutions of higher education and other higher education institutions receiving aid from the Government.
- viii. The State fund for persons with disabilities has been created in the year 2018-2019 with the financial allocation of Rs.1,000.00 lakh. Various welfare schemes for differently abled are being implemented through this fund.

- ix. As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 instructions has been given to the concerned departments for allocation of 5% agricultural land and housing to differently abled persons.
- x. Under Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House scheme priority is given to differently abled persons while preparing the list of beneficiaries.
- xi. Priority shall also be given to households having intellectually disabled persons in the family. 4% of the district wise allocation is reserved exclusively for differently abled persons across all categories.
- xii. Under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) 5% of allocation should be made for differently abled persons.
- xiii. Under the Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, Government Order for special Rural schedule of rates for Differently abled was issued and adopted.

The Government order provides either special activities for the differently abled workers or special provision for undertaking earthwork related activities. From 01.04.2019 the same wage rate was fixed for both men and women.

xiv. Orders has been issued designating the Court of the Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Chennai and the Principal District Court/ District Court in each Judicial district in the State of Tamil Nadu as the Special Courts to try the offences under this Act and all the existing special public prosecutor (Human Rights) have been designated for handling the cases under this Act.

3. IDENTITY CARD WITH DISABILITY CERTIFICATE AND PASS BOOK FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

As defined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 the person with specified disability may approach certifying authority for getting certificate of disability. Based on the certificate, the ID card with passbook will be issued by the District Differently

Abled Welfare Officer. So far 13,35,219 certificates of disability and pass books have been issued in the State.

4. RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION OF NGOs PROVIDING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

A) REGISTRATION OF NGOs PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED (OTHER THAN SPECIAL SCHOOLS):

As per the Chapter IX, Section 50 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, 203 NGOs have been registered for providing various rehabilitation services other than special education.

No person shall establish or maintain any institution for persons with disabilities without obtaining a certificate of registration issued by the Competent Authority.

B) RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS RUN BY THE NGOs FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS:

The recognition and renewal of Special School run by the NGOs are being done by the Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

as per the Tamil Nadu Recognized Private Schools Regulation Act, 1973 and Rules, 1974. So far, 392 special schools have been granted recognition.

5. REGISTRATION OF REHABILITATION CENTRES FOR THE PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS:

In Tamil Nadu, there are 85 Psychiatric rehabilitation centres functioning for the mentally ill persons which are regulated based on the Tamil Nadu Registration of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centres of Mentally ill Persons Rules, 2002.

6. EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES FOR HEARING LOSS:

Early identification and diagnostic centres for hearing loss have been established in 28 districts in a view to detect the permanent congenital and acquired hearing loss in children and adult, to provide hearing aid and early intervention services. In these centres, 5513 children and adults have been screened during 2019-2020. So far 25,029 Adult and children have been screened for hearing loss.

Apart from the above, through the State Resource cum Training Centre, Chennai, 769 new born babies have been screened for hearing loss and neuro developmental delay and early intervention services have been provided to 32 babies with disabilities.

The scheme of “New Born Screening for Hearing Loss” has been launched during January, 2018. It is being implemented in 21 hospitals including 11 maternity hospitals in Chennai district and 10 hospitals in district headquarters, taluk and upgraded primary health centres in Sivagangai district. Babies identified with hearing loss will be referred to early identification and diagnostic centre for hearing loss in the district. In the year 2019-2020, 15386 babies have been screened. Under this scheme totally 12 new born babies, 10 new born babies in Chennai and 2 new born babies in Sivagangai have been identified with hearing loss and they have been referred to higher centers. Parents were given counseling to look for responses in hearing. They were advised to bring the babies at the end of 3rd month for diagnostic evaluation and they are under supervision.

7. EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN:

Early Intervention Centers have been established at district level and training is provided to the children below 6 years. Suitable environment to these children has been created by the Government to include them into regular school after this training. Children with disability attending these centers along with an escort are allowed to travel free of cost in State Transport Corporation buses to and fro from their residence to the centre.

From the year 2018-2019, the honorarium for Special Educators working in various Early Intervention Centers has been enhanced from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.14,000/- per month.

A) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN:

With the aim to provide intensive intervention services and impart training to infants with hearing loss at the early stage and to enable them to develop their speech, language and communication skills on par with

the other children, the Early Intervention Centres for Hearing Impaired Children have been established in 30 districts. These centers are run by NGOs. Parent training is a vital part of this programme. To update the knowledge and skills of the special educators working in the Early Intervention Centres, Orientation Training is being provided to them every year.

In these centres, children under the age of 2½ years having hearing impairment without any additional disability are admitted. These centres will provide suitable training to the children with hearing impairment for inclusion into regular school by the time they attain 6 years of age. 3 more centres are functioning in Chennai district. 620 children with hearing impairment in the age group of below 3 years are getting trained in these centres. There are 63 Special educators working in these centres.

660 Differently abled children will benefit with Teaching and Learning Materials in 33 Early Intervention Centre at cost of 75.00 lakh in the year 2019 – 2020

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 114.64 lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.114.64 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

B) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY:

Early intervention centres for children with intellectual disability in the age group below 6 years have been established in 31 districts which are run by NGOs with Government assistance. Apart from this, one more centre is functioning in Chennai district. These centres are functioning with a total strength of 1460 children with intellectual disability. There are totally 150 special educators working in these centres. Refresher Training to the special educators working in these early intervention centres are given periodically. Parents are the integral part of the programme. Each of these centres is provided with Alternative and Augmentative Communication Device (AVAZ) to help the non verbal children to communicate through augmentative and alternative communication system.

The aim of this programme is to provide training to parents, care givers and families of the children with intellectual disability and to improve the child's daily living skills, socialization, cognitive and communication skills.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 258.96 lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 286.44 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

C) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN:

In Tamil Nadu, Early intervention centres for Visually Impaired have been established in 6 districts namely Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Chennai, Vellore and Tiruvannamalai districts and run by reputed NGOs with Government assistance. It is the fact that 85% of all early learning is through visual mode and a child who is visually impaired is at greater risk for developmental delays, hence necessary early intervention service is provided in these centres.

Totally 98 children in the age group of below 6 years are attending these centres. There are 12 special educators working in these centres.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 24.60 lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 24.60 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

D) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY:

Early Intervention Centres for children with cerebral palsy have been established and managed by the reputed NGOs with Government assistance and are functioning in Chennai and Tiruchirappalli Districts. In these centres, early integrated stimulation programme for children with cerebral palsy is provided by physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist and special educators.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 9.42 lakh has been utilized to benefit 75 differently abled children under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 14.38 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

E) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM:

Since there is an increase in the number of children with autism spectrum disorder, it is essential to establish Early Intervention Centres for Children with Autism. For this purpose, the training programmes like imitation skills, language comprehension and usage, appropriate play skills, response to social stimuli and social response interventions are provided through these centres.

Three centres have been established in Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari and Thanjavur districts. In these centres 60 children are provided training through 6 special educators working in these centres.

In addition to these centres, one centre for Autism is functioning each at SRTC-Chennai and RRTC-Tiruchirappalli, wherein 40 children with autism are getting benefitted and there are 4 special educators working in these two centres.

As per the announcement made during the year 2018-19, 14 Early Intervention Centres for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder have been established in Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Madurai, Namakkal, Salem, Tiruvannamalai, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Thiruvallur, Villupuram and Virudhunagar districts. 336 children are getting benefitted and 47 Special Educators are working in these centres.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 11.34 lakh has been utilized for benefiting 436 children in 19 centers under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.18.86 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

F) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES AT REGIONAL RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE- TIRUCHIRAPPALLI:

There is an exclusive early intervention centre for children with multiple disabilities functioning at RRTC, Tiruchirappalli district.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 3.84 lakh has been utilized for benefiting 18 children under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 3.84 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

G) SCHEME FOR SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY:

The scheme of screening and identification of children with developmental delay in the age group of below six years is being implemented through anganwadi workers in Kabilarmalai and Mohanur blocks in Namakkal district and Tirumangalam, Sellampatti,

Usilampatti and Kallikudi blocks in Madurai district. Under this scheme, training has been provided to all anganwadi workers of these blocks to screen children in the age group of below 6 years for developmental delay.

9661 children in anganwadi centres were screened in these blocks and 173 children have been identified and diagnosed with developmental delay. With the help of community based rehabilitation workers, physiotherapy, speech therapy and training in activities of daily living are provided at their home through the mobile application Village Based Rehabilitation Initiative (mVBRI).

During the year 2019-2020 this scheme has also been implemented in 12 blocks of Thoothukudi District and 11 blocks of Thirunelveli District at the cost of 236.92 lakh.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 3.44 lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

H) SCHEME FOR THE PROVISION OF WEANING FOOD AND SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO THE CHILDREN IN EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES:

In order to overcome the delay in growth due to lack in nutrition of the children with disabilities, weaning food and nutritious meal is provided to the children with disabilities attending the early intervention centres from the anganwadi centres of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Under this scheme 1952 children with disabilities in 67 early intervention centres are benefitted.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 3.45 lakh has been utilized for benefiting 1952 children in 67 centers under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 3.45 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

I) ONE DAY TOUR PROGRAMME FOR THE CHILDREN, CARETAKERS AND SPECIAL EDUCATORS IN EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES:

Early intervention plays an important role in mental and physical development of the child. Children at the early stage can learn better if the intervention is provided along with the field experience. Considering this, one day tour programme has been organized in all kind of Early Intervention Centres through Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Limited.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 7.90 lakh has been utilized for benefiting 1580 children in 79 centers under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 7.90 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

J) MOBILE THERAPY UNIT FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN:

Early intervention centres for differently abled children are located in the district headquarters. For the benefit of the Differently abled children aged

below 6 years along with their escorts who find it difficult to reach and avail the services through these centres, 32 mobile therapy units were established throughout the State at a cost of Rs.449.00 lakh and the scheme activities are implemented through these units. All the required therapy equipments are provided in the mobile van and early intervention services are rendered at the door steps of the beneficiaries. Camps and awareness programmes for the differently abled persons have been conducted in the needy rural areas. In the year 2019-2020, 2824 camps were held and 25,518 persons were benefitted through this programme. So far 11937 camps were conducted which involve Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Special Education and other rehabilitation work to benefit 97426 beneficiaries.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 111.96 lakh has been utilized for this scheme

A sum of Rs. 111.96 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

**8. STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE–
CHENNAI, REGIONAL RESOURCE CUM
TRAINING CENTRE - TIRUCHIRAPPALLI:**

**A) STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE –
CHENNAI**

State Resource cum Training Centre (SRTC) Chennai is functioning with the support of Government through NGOs since 2005. This centre provides specialized services and information under one roof to all categories of differently abled persons.

During the year 2019-2020, 8932 disability certificates along with identification cards and pass books have been issued to the differently abled persons to avail concessions relating to railway travel, income tax exemption, to avail scribe and extra time facilities in Government examinations, 75% free travel concession for escort etc through this centre. 92 differently abled children are benefitted through this centre.

Various training programmes are organized, benefitting parents, special educators, private employers, students of special education, architect,

Master of Social Worker students etc. Through this centre 25 training programmes have been conducted benefitting 1000 number of trainees.

Moreover, through the information centre functioning in SRTC, informations on schemes implemented by the Central and State Government for the differently abled, etc., are being provided to information seekers through the toll free number. So far 3258 telephone calls have been attended.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 35.66 lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 35.66 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for the State Resource cum Training Centre, Chennai

B) REGIONAL RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE TRICHIRAPPALLI:

In order to cater to the needs of differently abled persons hailing from the southern districts, Regional Resource cum Training Centre has been established in the year 2012 at Trichirappalli, which is managed jointly by District Differently Abled Welfare Office,

Trichirappalli and Non-Governmental Organisations. 2047 disability certificates and pass books were issued to differently abled persons during the year 2019-2020. Through this centre counseling, guidance and information are given and 918 differently abled persons are benefitted. In addition, 42 persons with mental illness attend the day care centre for mentally ill persons.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 22.07 lakh has been utilized for this scheme

A sum of Rs. 22.07 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for the Regional Resource cum Training Centre, Tiruchirappalli.

9. REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

It is essential to ensure that no stigma is attached to mental illness as it is curable, particularly when diagnosed at an early stage. Thus, the mentally ill persons are to be treated like any other sick persons

and the environment around them should be made as normal as possible.

A) REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL PERSONS:

To provide shelter, food, medical facilities and rehabilitation services to the mentally ill persons who are wandering, those who do not require further hospitalization and those who are not accepted by their families, Homes for persons with mental illness were established and functioning in 31 districts in Tamil Nadu. These homes are managed by reputed NGOs with Government assistance. In each of these homes, 50 mentally ill persons can be accommodated. From October, 2018 the feeding grant for mentally ill persons has been enhanced from Rs. 650/- to Rs. 900/- per month per person.

During the year 2019-2020, 22 additional homes for mentally ill has been established at the cost of 268.00 lakhs to benefit 1100 persons through NGOs with the financial support of Government.

So far 3243 mentally ill persons were benefited in 53 homes under this scheme.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 475.94 lakh has been utilized for this scheme

A sum of Rs. 621.35 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

B) RESCUE SCHEME:

Under this scheme, the mentally ill persons who are abandoned by the family and found roaming in the streets and other public places are rescued and admitted in hospitals and rehabilitation homes for the mentally ill. This scheme is implemented with Government assistance of Rs. 1500/- per rescued mentally ill person through NGOs.

During 2019-2020, 500 mentally ill persons were rescued and admitted in the hospitals and in homes for mentally ill persons and a sum of Rs.7.50 lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 7.50 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

C) REHABILITATION HOMES FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED PERSONS ABOVE 14 YEARS:

There are 42 homes for the intellectually disabled persons above 14 years which are established and functioning by NGOs. It includes 16 homes for males and 19 homes for females and 7 homes for both genders. Through these homes shelter, food, medical facilities and vocational training in trades like candle making, baking and gardening etc. are provided to the intellectually disabled persons.

From October 2018, the feeding grant has been enhanced from Rs.650/- to Rs.900/- per person per month.

During the year 2018-2019, Rs.50.00 lakh has been sanctioned to strengthen the infrastructure facilities for improving the skill training programme in 5 selected homes for adult intellectually disabled persons out of 42 homes run by NGO.

During the year 2019-2020, 23 additional homes with Vocational training for 920 adult intellectually disabled persons has been

established at the cost of Rs.255.00 lakh through NGOs.

At present 2006 intellectually disabled persons are benefitted under the scheme.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 614.53 lakh has been utilized under this scheme

A sum of Rs. 519.69 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

D) GOVERNMENT REHABILITATION HOMES:

In Tamil Nadu, Government has established 10 rehabilitation homes for the leprosy beggars and persons affected with leprosy. In these Homes, rehabilitation services and medical assistance is provided to the persons affected with leprosy. These Homes are functioning in the following places:-

SL.No	Place	District
1	Paranur	Chengalpattu
2	Ulundurpet	Kallakurichi
3	Bargur	Krishnagiri
4	Pudukottai	Pudukottai
5	Manaiyeripatti	Thanjavur
6	Y. Pudupatti	Madurai
7	Mallavadi	Tiruvannamalai
8	Selliyampatti	Dharmapuri
9	Deviyakurichi	Salem
10	Vinnapalli	Erode

During the year 2019-2020, 758 inmates are accommodated in these homes.

A person can voluntarily get admitted in the above homes after confirmation of the disease by the specialist. The patients are admitted along with their family members. The inmates are discharged from the home on good health condition on their request. Leprosy affected persons who indulge in beggary in

public places and are convicted by the Judicial Magistrate are admitted in the Government Rehabilitation Home, Ulundurpet.

Free boarding, lodging, clothing and medical facilities are provided to the inmates. Each inmate is supplied food at a cost of Rs.1260/- per month at the rate of Rs.42/-per day per adult and Rs.1110/- per month at the rate of Rs.37/- per day per child. On special occasions such as Deepavali, Pongal, Republic day, Independence day, Gandhi Jayanthi, Anti Leprosy day and Annual day special food is supplied at an additional cost Rs. 25/- for adults and Rs. 20/- for children.

Training like mat weaving, cloth weaving, tailoring and shoe-making are provided to them. They are paid wages for the goods produced by them.

Two sets of clothes are distributed every year during Pongal and Deepavali festival. Every year micro cellular rubber footwear and mats are supplied. 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 1st standard to 12th standard through School Education Department.

The inmates are provided medical assistance by medical officers in each home. The required medicines are purchased through Tamil Nadu Medical Service Corporation. The funds are allocated to each home for the following items:-

Sl. No	Item	Expenditure allotted per annum
1.	Supply of special type of shoes and artificial limbs (for needy inmates)	(Each beneficiaries) Rs.1000/-
2.	Purchase of spectacles	(Each Home) Rs.5,000/-
3.	Tooth brush and tooth powder	(Each Home) Rs.2,500/-

Further, the Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.2,000/- to perform the funeral rituals during the death of inmates. In the year 2017-2018, a sum of

Rs.80.48 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of Modern kitchen in Government rehabilitation homes of Sellayampatti in Dharmapuri District, Burgur in Krishnagiri District and Ulundurpet in Villupuram District. Moreover, these types of kitchens have been constructed in all other Rehabilitation Homes which are under use.

During the year 2018-2019 new building has been constructed in Government Rehabilitation Home, Manayeripatti in Thanjavur district at the cost of Rs.110.00 lakh and it is being used.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 894.65 lakh has been utilized under this scheme

A sum of Rs. 971.84 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

E) GOVERNMENT CARE CAMP - MELPAKKAM:

As per the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Beggary Act, 1945 Government care camp at Melpakkam has been started in the year 1954 with a view to prevent the crime of begging and to rehabilitate the beggars. The convicted beggars are admitted and detained here

for the period of detention as ordered by the court. Free boarding, lodging, clothing and medical facilities are provided to the inmates of this camp. Training in various trades like weaving, carpentry, pottery and tailoring are also provided to them. Since there was no conviction in the recent past , there are no inmates at the care camp at present .

10. DAY CARE CENTRES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

A) DAY CARE CENTRES FOR THE PERSONS WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY:

In these centres continuous medical care, physiotherapy and support services are given to the persons affected with muscular dystrophy to prevent the progressive weakness of muscles. 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 NGOs with Government assistance with sanctioned strength of 15 in each centre. In Tirunelveli from the

year 2017-2018 the strength has been increased from 15 to 65.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 215.19 lakh has been utilized for benefiting 110 beneficiaries under this scheme.

During the year 2019-2020 additional 10 day care centres to care the persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy with equipment at the total cost of Rs. 2.65 Crores has been established. Totally 250 beneficiaries at the rate of 25 in each centre will be benefited.

A sum of Rs. 301.99 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

B) DAY CARE CENTRES FOR THE CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY:

There are 3 day care centers for the children with intellectual disability functioning in Theni district. These centers are run by NGOs with Government assistance. From the year 2018-2019,

the honorarium for therapists working in these Day care centres has been enhanced from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.14,000/- per month.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 14.52 lakh has been utilized for benefiting 90 children under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 14.52 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 - 2021 for this scheme.

11. SPECIAL EDUCATION:

In order to ensure that the differently abled children are not excluded from the general education system, the Government is providing special education through 72 Government and aided institutions for these children.

There are 1212 students in 22 Government special schools and 5048 students in 50 Government aided special schools getting special education.

There are 22 Government special schools. Among them each 10 Schools for the visually impaired, and hearing impaired and one each for severely locomotor disabled and intellectual challenged children. The other 50 Government aided special schools are managed by NGOs.

The 22 Government special schools which are functioning in the state includes 3 higher secondary schools for the visually impaired at Poonamallee (Boys), Tiruchirappalli (Girls) and Thanjavur (Boys and Girls) and 2 schools for hearing impaired at Dharmapuri and Thanjavur.

A) ASSISTANCES PROVIDED TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS:

Government is providing financial assistance to the aided and recognized unaided institution for feeding grant, honorarium for the special educators, therapists and grant for construction of new building and extension of the same and for rent payment.

i) ASSISTANCES PROVIDED TO GOVERNMENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS

The students studying in the Government special schools are given boarding and lodging facilities at free of cost. The sports materials teaching and learning materials are also provided to these special schools.

Government assistance is also given to the Government special schools to undertake one day and three days educational tour for the differently abled students once in a year. During the year 2019-2020, 548 students benefited in one day tour and 328 students benefited in three days educational tour programme.

The Government primary school for the visually impaired functioning at Pudukottai district was upgraded as middle school from the academic year 2017-2018.

The Government higher secondary special schools for the visually impaired and hearing impaired in Thiruvallur, Tiruchirapalli, Thanjavur and Dharmapuri districts have achieved 100 percent pass in 12th standard during the academic year 2018-2019.

To provide quality education with advance teaching methodology in special schools smart classes have been introduced in the year 2018–2019 in 9 Government special schools for hearing impaired at the cost of Rs.45.00 lakh.

During the year 2018-2019 Computers and accessories have been procured through ELCOT for establishing computer lab and the recruitment of 20 computer Instructors at the cost of Rs.119.78 lakh to provide infrastructural facilities in 20 Government special schools. The recruitment of computer Instructors is under process.

Procurement of power laundry and washing machines is being done for the hostels of 10 Government special schools for visually impaired at the cost of Rs.15.00 lakh as sanctioned by the Government for this scheme.

Sign Language Interpreter training course for 100 special educators through NGO has been

introduced for facilitating communication with the hearing impaired at the cost of Rs.10.00 Lakh.

ii) NUTRITION INTERVENTION AND IQ EVALUATION FOR THE SPECIAL STUDENTS:

A new scheme for the students studying in the Government special schools for identifying nutritional intervention up to 8th standard and career guidance and counseling through IQ assessment for higher secondary level to pursue higher education and vocational training has been introduced. During the year 2017-2018 at the cost of Rs. 10.52 lakh 11 camps were conducted. 254 visually impaired students and 206 hearing impaired students have been screened for nutritional intervention and IQ evaluation.

iii) ASSISTANCES GIVEN TO GOVERNMENT AIDED AND RECOGNISED UN-AIDED SPECIAL SCHOOLS RUN BY NGOs:

1. SALARY GRANTS TO SPECIAL EDUCATORS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND HEARING IMPAIRED:

Special educators working in the Government recognized special schools for the hearing impaired and

visually impaired are provided with salary grant which has been enhanced from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.14,000/- per month from the year 2018 – 2019. Salary grant is provided to 3 special educators in each special school.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.225.12 lakh has been utilized to benefit 134 special educators working in 46 special schools.

A sum of Rs. 313.17 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

2. FEEDING GRANT FOR THE STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, HEARING IMPAIRED AND LOCOMOTOR DISABLED:

The Government is providing feeding grant to hostellers who are studying in Government recognized special schools run by NGOs for visually impaired, hearing impaired and locomotor disabled. In the year 2018-2019 feeding charges were enhanced from Rs.650/- to Rs.900/- per month and totally

2756 students studying in 44 special schools have been benefitted.

This scheme has been expanded from February, 2015 and day scholars studying in Government and Government recognized special schools are provided with noon-meal. 1021 students are benefitted in 29 special schools under this scheme.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 271.01 lakh has been utilized for this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 271.20 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

3. SALARY GRANT TO SPECIAL EDUCATORS AND THERAPISTS (PHYSIOTHERAPIST, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AND SPEECH THERAPIST) EMPLOYED IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED:

Special educators and therapists working in the special schools for the intellectually disabled children run by the NGOs were given salary grant of Rs.5,000/-. In order to encourage the special educators and therapists (physiotherapist, occupational therapist,

speech therapist) to continue to work for the children with intellectual disability, the salary grant has been enhanced from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.10,000/- per month from December, 2012. Subsequently, it was enhanced from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.14,000/- per month since April, 2018 onwards.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs1243.20 lakh has been utilized for benefiting 749 special educators and therapists working in 254 special schools for the intellectually disabled under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 1363.48 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

4) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SPECIAL TRAINING CENTER FOR INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED CHILDREN

Government is providing financial assistance to NGOs to run special school for the children with intellectual disability in Theni and Cuddalore (Kattumannarkoil) districts. 75 children with intellectual disability attend these schools.

During 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.8.65 lakh has been provided to NGOs functioning at Theni District and Rs.10.77 lakh to NGOs functioning at Cuddalore District.

A sum of Rs.8.65 lakh for Theni District and Rs. 10.77 lakh for Cuddalore has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for the above special schools.

5. A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NGOS MAINTAINING RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED:

The Government is providing financial assistances to NGOs who give care and protection to intellectually disabled persons. The assistance given as a grant includes construction of new building / extension of building, rent payment as per requirement and feeding charges for the inmates. In the year 2018-2019 feeding charges for the inmates were enhanced from Rs.650/- to Rs.900/- per month.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.430.49 lakh has been utilized for 3836 students studying in 148 special school run by NGOs have been benefitted under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 505.22 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

B) EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP:

In order to encourage the Special Education of the differently abled children scholarship is provided to meet their incidental expenditure during the course of their education as detailed below:-

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 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.681.00 lakh has been utilized to benefit 18,590 students under this scheme

A sum of Rs.681.01 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

C) READERS ALLOWANCE:

In order to encourage the learning process for the visually impaired students, the Government of Tamil Nadu is providing readers allowance to those who are studying in 9th Standard and above up to post-graduation level. During the financial year 2013-2014, the readers allowance amount had been doubled and the enhanced amount is as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	Standard	Enhanced Amount
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 2019-2020, a sum of Rs.100.00 lakh has been utilized to benefit 2047 students under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 100.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

D) SCRIBE ASSISTANCE:

In order to facilitate the visually impaired students studying in 9th standard to 12th standard for writing their examinations, a sum of Rs.300/- per examination paper is provided to engage a scribe. This scribe assistance has been enhanced from Rs.250/- to Rs.300/- from the year 2015-2016.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.43.19 lakh has been utilized for 780 students studying in 3 Government special schools and 9 Government aided special schools under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 44.84 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

E) DISTRICT LEVEL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS.

During the year 2017-2018, Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.5.00 lakh for establishing District level resource centre for differently abled persons. The pool of scribes in each district, who will assist visually impaired to write examinations and sign language interpreters who will communicate with hearing impaired persons during meetings on grievance day conducted by District Collector and mass contact programmes conducted in districts is maintained in this centre to help the differently abled persons.

F) COST FREE TEXT BOOKS TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AIDED SPECIAL SCHOOLS:

In order to encourage Special Education, free text-books to differently abled students including braille books to visually impaired, studying from I Standard to XII Standard in the Government and Government aided special schools are provided through the Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation.

G) FREE UNIFORMS TO STUDENTS STUDYING IN GOVERNMENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS:

The differently abled students studying in Government special schools are provided with four sets of uniforms every year without any cost.

During the year 2019-2020, a sum of Rs12.98 lakh has been utilized for 1142 students under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 13.01 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

H) FREE ELECTRONIC DEVICES FOR LEARNING TO VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS STUDYING IN GOVERNMENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS:

The visually impaired students studying in 10th and 12th standard at Government special schools for visually impaired at Tiruchirappalli, Poonamallee and Thanjavur are provided with lessons in various subjects in electronic CDs and pen drives and given along with DVD players head phones. Based on the requests of visually impaired students, Angel-Pro Daisy Player - a Hi-Tech device is also being provided with

8 GB internal memory, with navigation of headings, pages, phrases, sentences and time jump intervals.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.8.76 lakh has been utilized for 116 students under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.10.10 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

I) CASH INCENTIVES TO STUDENTS TO PREVENT DROP-OUTS:

Cash incentives are given to differently abled students, who are studying in 10th to 12th Standard in Government and Government aided special schools, for motivating them to continue their studies and to prevent drop-outs. The details of the incentive are given below:-

SI. 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/-

During the year 2019-2020 a sum Rs.24.05 lakh has been utilized for 1,411 students under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 24.05 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

J) B.COM., AND B.C.A., COURSES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS:

B.Com and B.C.A courses were started by Government exclusively for hearing impaired students in Presidency College at Chennai. 30 Students are admitted every year in each course. This enables the students with hearing impairment to pursue graduate courses in applied subjects. The guest lecturers working on contract basis were paid Rs.10,000/- as consolidated pay, which has now been increased to Rs.15,000/- from 14.11.2017.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.6.10 lakh has been utilized under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 7.09 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

K) ASSISTANCE TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED LAW GRADUATES:

The differently abled law graduates are given financial assistance for enrolment in Bar Council as lawyers and also for purchase of law books. From the year 2018-2019 this assistance has been enhanced from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.10,000/-.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.1.50 lakh has been utilized for 15 law graduates under this scheme .

A sum of Rs. 1.50 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

L) NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES:

The Government of India scheme of National Scholarship for the Persons with Disabilities have been

implemented through online processing of applications since 2015 – 2016. 1548 fresh application and 536 renewal applications have been approved for the year 2019-2020 for the release of payment ranging from Rs.8500/- to Rs.1,65,000/-. During the year 2018-2019, Government of India have given Rs.385.00 lakh scholarship for students. During the year 2019-2020 2084 students have been benefitted under this scheme.

12. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A) EMPLOYMENT:

i) ENSURING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS THROUGH RESERVATION:

As mentioned in Section 34 of the RPWD Act - 2016, 4% reservation is ensured in jobs for differently abled persons, in Government departments/Government undertakings, Boards and other Government agencies. Government have issued orders identifying 244 posts in Group A & B as suitable for differently abled persons. Steps are taken to identify suitable posts in Government undertakings, Boards and

other Government agencies. As far as the posts under C & D groups, Government have issued orders identifying all posts as suitable for differently abled persons. As per 4% reservation 1645 Differently abled persons have been recruited through TNPSC and Employment and Training Department.

ii) INCENTIVE TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS PASSED IN PRELIMINARY EXAM AND APPEARING FOR MAIN EXAM CONDUCTED BY UPSC (CIVIL SERVICES) AND TNPSC (GROUP-I SERVICES):

With an objective of motivating differently abled persons to appear in main examination conducted by the UPSC (Civil Services) and TNPSC (Group I Services), an incentive scheme is implemented from the year 2016-17 and a sum of Rs. 50,000/- is given to each candidate as an incentive. Under this scheme, so far 106 differently abled persons have been benefitted.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 43.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 86 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 4.50 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021.

iii) JOB PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR:

Special efforts are being taken by Government to organize job fairs exclusively for differently abled persons to place them in private organisations. As many as 1510 differently abled persons have been placed in various organisations through 175 job fairs held in various districts during the year 2019-2020.

B) SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME:

i) MOTORISED SEWING MACHINE:

Towards empowering the economic independence and motivating differently abled persons to undertake self-employment, motorized sewing machines are given to differently abled persons. From the year 2018-2019, in addition to persons with locomotor disability and persons with hearing impairment this scheme has been extended to benefit persons with mild intellectual disability and mothers of severely affected persons with the intellectual disability.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 128.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 3045 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 128.00lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021.

ii) MICRO ENTERPRISES AND BUNK STALLS:

Special efforts are taken to motivate differently abled persons to establish self-employment ventures and micro enterprises. They are facilitated to get loans from nationalized banks. During the year 2013, the subsidy amount has been increased from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.10,000/- by merging two type of subsidy scheme i.e., Rs.3000/- & Rs.5000/-. Accordingly, Government is providing a subsidy of Rs.10,000/- or one third of loan amount, whichever is less, to differently abled persons to start self-employment ventures/enterprises. During 2018-19, the subsidy amount has been enhanced from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/-.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 381.36 lakh was utilized to benefit 1530 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 400.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

iii) PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP):

The differently abled persons are motivated to start self employment ventures, projects, micro-enterprises in manufacturing, business, service sector for which bank loan is given under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Scheme. Under this scheme, a portion of 5% loan amount to be paid by differently abled persons as margin money is borne by State Government as grant. To avail this grant, differently abled persons should apply online to Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Khadi and Village Industries Board and District Industries Centres. The District Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of District Collector, will scrutinize the application forwarded by the above authority and select the beneficiaries for getting the margin money as grant under this scheme.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 11 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 5.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

iv) UNEMPLOYED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (UYEGP):

In order to augment employment opportunities, bank loan is given to differently abled persons for setting up of self employment enterprises under Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme. Under UYEGP scheme, 5% share of the loan amount sanctioned is to be paid by them as margin money which is borne by State Government as grant. For getting this grant, differently abled persons have to submit online applications to District Industries Centres. The District selection Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Collector will scrutinize the application forwarded by DIC and select the

beneficiaries for getting the margin money as grant under this scheme.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 8.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 51 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 10.00lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

V) NATIONAL HANDICAPPED FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NHFDC) ASSISTED SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME:

Effective steps are taken by State Government to provide financial assistance to more number of differently abled persons under self-employment schemes sponsored by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), Government of India. The Tamil Nadu State Central Co-operative Bank Limited has been appointed as the Channelizing Agency for providing self-employment loan to differently abled persons through co-operative banks. With an aim to assist more number of differently abled persons to take up various economic activities for

their development and to get credit facilities from the nearby co-operative banks, State Government have introduced the scheme of interest- free loan for those availing the same from the co-operative banks. The interest is borne by State Government.

For the year 2019-2020, a notional allocation of Rs.30.00 crores has been made by NHFDC.

During the year 2019-2020 loan to a tune of Rs. 2093.00 lakh has been sanctioned to 4461 beneficiaries.

VI) PROVIDING SUBSIDY FOR ESTABLISHING AAVIN PARLOUR TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED:

In order to encourage differently abled persons to set up Aavin Parlor which will provide them Self Employment opportunities, a scheme was introduced in the year 2018-2019. Under this scheme, the deposit amount of Rs.25,000/- to be paid by differently abled persons to Aavin will be borne by Government. Under this scheme 100 differently abled persons were benefited during the year 2018-2019.

During the year the 2019-2020, the scheme has been extended to 200 beneficiaries with the enhanced amount of Rs.50000/- which includes security deposit of Rs.25000/- and procurement of milk product for Rs.25000/- each at the total cost of Rs.100.00 lakh.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 100.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 200 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 100.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

C) TRAINING PROGRAMMES:

In order to mitigate the unemployment problem of the persons with disabilities who are experiencing many disadvantages in labour market, following training programmes are being imparted for differently abled persons to encourage their skills in various trades with free of cost :-

i) BOOK BINDER TRAINING:

Every Year, Book binder training is imparted to Visually Impaired candidates with residential facilities at

Government higher secondary school for blind, Poonamallee. During the training period, they are provided residential facilities with a stipend of Rs.300/- per month.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 16.84 lakh was utilized to benefit 21 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 15.41 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

ii) MULTIMEDIA AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

In order to create employment opportunities to locomotor differently abled persons and hearing impaired persons, one month training in multimedia and digital photography is provided at the Regional Office, National Film Development Corporation Limited, Chennai. On completion of training, differently abled persons are facilitated to get job opportunities in the entertainment industries as there is more scope for multimedia trained personnel in television broadcasting and advertisement agencies.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 37.38 lakh was utilized to benefit 250 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 37.38 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

iii) FITTER TRAINING TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED:

For benefitting hearing Impaired persons, a special training wing has been functioning for providing two years Fitter training at Government ITI Guindy. Every year, 21 hearing impaired persons undergo training programme in “Fitter” trade. During the training period, a stipend of Rs.300/- per month is given to trainees.

iv) SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING:

In order to motivate differently abled persons to get employment opportunities in private sector, Government have ordered to implement skill training programme for differently abled persons during the year

2017-2018 and 120 differently abled persons have been trained under this scheme.

13. ASSISTIVE DEVICES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

The Government while creating barrier free structure for accessibilities also provide need based assistive devices to promote independent mobility and to enable them for an independent living.

The following assistive devices are being supplied to differently abled persons at a cost of Rs.75 lakh during the year 2019-2020:-

Sl.No	Name of the Appliances	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Tricycles	263
2	Foldable wheel chairs	312
3	Plastic calipers	50
4	Metal calipers	50
5	Crutches	960
6	Artificial limbs	40
7	Goggles	1407
8	Magnifiers	144
9	Braille Watches	1086

To fit the appliances as per requirement, measurements for calipers and artificial limbs are being taken by orthotic technicians working in District Differently abled Welfare office and appliances are fabricated by selected tenderers who were selected by adopting procurement procedures under open tender and it is fitted to beneficiaries.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 75.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 4312 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 75.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

14. SPECIAL ASSISTIVE DEVICES:

Besides regular aids and appliances, Government is also providing Special Assistive Devices for the benefit of the Differently Abled Persons. This includes the following:

- (a) Retro-fitted Petrol Scooters;
- (b) Behind the Ear Hearing Aids;

- (c) Modified Wheel Chairs for persons affected by Cerebral Palsy;
- (d) Modular Reflective Folding Sticks;
- (e) Walking Devices for Differently abled Children.
- (f) Battery Operated Wheel Chairs.
- (g) Corner Seats for children affected with Cerebral palsy.

A) RETROFITTED PETROL SCOOTERS:

Retrofitted Petrol Scooters are distributed to both lower-limb affected differently abled students, employees and self employed persons without cost. The scheme has been introduced during 2011-2012, initially implemented by providing retrofitted petrol scooters for 400 persons at a cost of Rs.200 lakh and till the end of financial year 2018-2019, totally 9088 beneficiaries have been provided with Retrofitted Petrol Scooters at a total cost of Rs.5117.43 lakh.

Sl. No.	Financial Year	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	2011-2012	400
2.	2012-2013	370
3.	2013-2014	985
4.	2014-2015	969
5.	2015-2016	1083
6.	2016-2017	1017
7.	2017-2018	2000
8.	2018-2019	2264
Total		9088

During the year 2019-2020, 2122 beneficiaries are getting Retrofitted petrol Scooters at a cost of Rs.1197.28 lakh.

A sum of Rs. 1197.28 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020–2021 for providing under this scheme.

B) BEHIND THE EAR HEARING AIDS:

Government has already been providing body level hearing aids to hearing impaired persons. As these beneficiaries especially girl students and

women beneficiaries hesitate to wear this appliances in public places and as a result, their hearing ability gets affected. Hence, behind the ear hearing aids are provided for the benefit of hearing impaired students, employed persons, self employed persons as per their need.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 100.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 3546 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 100.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020–2021 for Behind the Ear Hearing Aids to the hearing impaired persons.

C) MODIFIED WHEEL CHAIRS FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY CEREBRAL PALSY:

As an effort to design the need based supply of appliances, Modified Wheel Chairs are designed and provided to cerebral palsy affected persons for their comfortable mobility.

Under the scheme, from the year 2011-2012, and upto end of financial year 2018-2019, 4,013 beneficiaries were provided with Modified Wheel Chairs at a cost of Rs.227.86 lakh.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 36.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 464 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 36.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

D) REFLECTIVE FOLDING STICKS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS:

To facilitate safe and independent mobility of visually impaired persons reflective folding sticks are given to help them.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 2409 visually impaired persons.

A sum of Rs. 210.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

E) WALKING DEVICE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN

To facilitate the mobility of young children who are affected with legs and having difficulties in walking, walking device was introduced in the year 2017-2018. So far 1432 beneficiaries were provided with Walking Device.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 617 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs.10.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

F) BATTERY OPERATED WHEEL CHAIR:

To facilitate the independent mobility of locomotor affected particularly for the persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy, Paraplegic and Tetraplegic persons Government have introduced the scheme to supply Battery Operated Wheel Chairs during the year 2017-2018. Totally 872 beneficiaries were provided at a cost of Rs. 650.00 lakh.

During the year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 procurement process is going on for 5000 Battery Operated Wheel Chairs at the cost of 3759.00 lakh.

A sum of Rs.1300.00 Lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 to provide Battery Operated Wheel Chairs.

G) CORNER SEAT FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED WITH CEREBRAL PALSY:

To address the issues relating to physical strain of children affected with cerebral palsy below three years who are getting training in EICs, the scheme of providing corner seat has been introduced during 2019-2020.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 15.00 lakh was utilized to benefit 518 differently abled persons.

15. ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

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

In order to provide barrier free environment in buildings and premises used by public, Government in Housing and urban development has ordered that various provisions for persons with disabilities to be made mandatory.

In the Government orders issued by Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, it has been made mandatory, for all newly constructed public buildings with two floors and above to provide lift, ramp, special toilet, braille signage and vehicle parking place for the use of the differently abled persons.

In accordance with the section 45 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and also as per Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017, all existing public buildings should be provided with barrier free structure for the use of differently abled persons within five years from the date of issue of notification.

In order to make the existing public buildings prior to issuance of above orders which are not accessible the following measures have been taken by

State for making the buildings accessible for persons with disabilities:-

**A) ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN
(SUGAMYA BHARATH ABHIYAN):**

The Government of India under Accessible India Campaign for making accessible features for differently abled persons, under phase-I totally 49 Government public buildings in Chennai and Coimbatore cities have been identified. An amount of Rs.1103.88 lakh has been allotted for carrying out retrofitting works in those buildings and making them fully accessible for persons with disabilities.

Under phase II, 148 buildings have been identified in Chennai city out of which access audit has completed in 74 buildings (50%) at an amount of Rs.44.40 lakh. The access audit reports have been sent to concerned departments.

Under phase III, 352 buildings in 10 important cities / towns have been identified out of which access audit has been completed in 176 public building (50%).

Government have sanctioned an amount Rs.105.60 lakh. The access audit reports have been sent to concerned departments.

As far as accessible websites is concerned, so far 16 websites were made accessible for differently abled person.

B) ACCESS AUDIT FOR CREATING BARRIER FREE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED:

To ensure accessibility in all public building across the state an access audit team has been formed and an access audit was conducted in public buildings which include Collectorates of 31 districts, Anna Institute of Management & Training and new State Guest House in Chennai city. The Government have also sanctioned Rs.20.00 lakh for conducting access audit in the above 33 Government public buildings. The access audit reports have been sent to concerned departments.

In the 46th All India Tourism and Industrial Trade Fair held in Chennai awareness was created by

constructing a barrier free modal house for differently abled persons.

C) SCHEME OF INSTALLING 'AUDITORY SIGNALS' AT TRAFFIC JUNCTIONS AND AUDIO ALERT SYSTEM AT GOVERNMENT BUSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED:

Auditory signals have been installed in 150 traffic signals in Chennai city for the benefit of visually impaired persons to cross the road safely at a cost of Rs.43.82 lakh. In the year 2018-2019 this facility has been extended to Salem and Madurai Cities at a cost of Rs.31.00 lakh. The work is in progress.

Besides this, an audio alert system has been installed in 75 buses of Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) plying in 10 routes in Chennai city at a cost of Rs.9.50 lakh to make travel easy for visually impaired persons.

D) SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER:

To facilitate communication with the hearing impaired persons, during the meeting with associations, grievance redressals at Commissionerate for welfare of

diifferently abled a sign language interpreter has been recruited.

16. SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES:

A) UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

Towards the welfare of unemployed differently abled persons in the age group of 18 years and above Government is providing unemployment allowances in accordance with 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.1,000/-

To get benefit under this scheme, the unemployed differently abled persons should have been in the live register of employment exchange for a minimum period of one year.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs. 2045.11 lakh was utilized to benefit 21399 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 2000.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

B) MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE :

Maintenance allowance of Rs.1500/- per month is given to persons with intellectual disability, severely affected persons, persons affected with muscular dystrophy and leprosy affected persons without any income ceiling. Maintenance allowance is sent through ECS to the bank account of the beneficiary directly.

The maintenance allowance provided to differently abled persons are as detailed below.

Sl. No	Category of Disability	Criteria (Percentage of Disability)	No of beneficiaries	Amount in Rs.
1	Persons with intellectual disability	40% and above	183352	31572.00
2	Severely affected persons	75% and above		
3	Persons affected with muscular dystrophy	40% and above	3422	584.28
4	Leprosy affected persons	40% and above	7675	1107.62
	Total		1,94,449	33263.90

A sum of Rs. 35716.36 lakh for persons with intellectual disability and severely affected persons, Rs. 584.97 lakh for persons affected with muscular dystrophy and Rs. 1198.67 lakh for leprosy affected persons has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020 – 2021.

C) PERSONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE TO PERSONS WITH HIGH SUPPORT NEED:

The scheme of provision of Rs. 1000/- per month to persons with high support need towards engaging

one personal assistant has been introduced at the cost of Rs.24.00 Lakh in the year 2019-2020. Totally 800 persons have been benefited under this scheme.

A sum of Rs. 96.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

D) MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME:

To facilitate economic empowerment and inclusion in the community, the State Government provide marriage assistance encouraging the normal person to marry differently abled persons. The marriage assistance includes cash Rs.25,000/- and 8 grams of gold coin for making “Thirumangalyam” for the bride. From the year 2012-2013, the cash assistance has been enhanced to Rs.50,000/- if any one of the spouse have completed graduation / diploma.

Following are the details of various categories of marriage assistance scheme being implemented.

Sl. No	Name of the Scheme	Details of Assistances for	
		Graduates / Diploma holders	Other than Graduates / Diploma holders
1.	Assistance to normal person marrying visually impaired	1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin of 8 Grams	1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams
2.	Assistance to normal person marrying orthopedically handicapped	1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams	1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams
3.	Assistance to normal person marrying speech and hearing impaired	1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams	1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams
4.	Assistance to Differently Abled person marrying differently abled	1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams	1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams

There is no ceiling on the number of beneficiaries and therefore all eligible applicants may receive marriage assistance. From the year 2019-2020 onwards this scheme has been extended to all categories of differently abled persons to get assistance under this scheme.

During the year 2019-2020 a sum of Rs.545.86 lakh was utilized to benefit 926 differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 545.86 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

E) TAMIL NADU WELFARE BOARD FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

The Government have constituted Tamil Nadu Welfare Board to assist differently abled persons including their family members with various social security benefits. Differently abled persons who are 10 years and above may enroll as member of the board. During the year 2017 the board has been reconstituted. The Board implements the following

social security and welfare schemes for differently abled persons and their family members. So far 8,75,456 members have enrolled in the Welfare board.

The Board implements the following social security and welfare schemes for differently abled persons:-

(1)	Personal accident relief:		
	The Compensation provided under the scheme is as follows:		
	(a)	Death due to accident	Rs.1,00,000/-
	(b)	Loss of both lower or upper limb/ both eyes or total dysfunction 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 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/-

During the year 2019-2020, a sum of Rs. 353.42 lakh has been utilized to benefit 2409 differently abled persons under the schemes.

A sum of Rs.329.62 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

F) TRAVEL CONCESSION TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS IN STATE OWNED TRANSPORT CORPORATION BUSES:

The differently abled persons having more than 40% are permitted to avail the following travel concessions in the State owned transport corporation buses without any income ceiling.

i) 100% Free Travel concession.

ii) 75% Free Travel concession.

1) 100% FREE TRAVEL CONCESSION

The visually impaired persons are also 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 the above free travel concession for their travel from their resident to the place of education, hospitals, training centres and to undertake employment. Intellectually Challenged persons are permitted to travel along with one escort under this scheme . Under this concession 3,06,567 differently abled persons benefited at a total cost of Rs. 3605.41 lakhs .

The children attending early intervention centres and persons with intellectual disabilities are also permitted to travel freely along with one escort. Totally 32 differently abled children and escorts benefited at a total cost of Rs. 5.02 lakhs

2) 75% TRAVEL CONCESSION

All differently abled persons are permitted to avail 75% concession to travel any place within the Tamil Nadu state in state owned transport corporation buses except air-conditioned bus without any restrictions on the number of trips.

Totally 13,66,447 trips have been made by differently abled persons at a cost of Rs.2298.34 lakhs

75% concession is also given to escort who accompanies differently abled persons who cannot travel alone. Under this concession 3,309 Differently abled persons at a cost of Rs.12.05 lakhs .

In the year 2019-2020 Rs.6252.70 lakhs has been reimbursed to State Transport Corporations towards these concessions.

A sum of Rs. 3300.00 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

G) 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 provides for setting up of Local Level Committees (LLC) to appoint legal guardians besides providing other welfare

programme for above categories of differently abled persons. The National Trust is implementing the welfare schemes through registered organization. Local Level Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of District Collector and guardians have been appointed for persons above 18 years affected with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, autism and multiple disabilities. So far 15212 guardianship certificates have been issued to differently abled persons under National Trust Act .

H) Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme:

The Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project is the implementing agency for this insurance scheme. The Government while promoting various social security schemes have also introduced insurance scheme for the economically backward residents of this State whose family income is less than 72,000/- per annum covering their family members. In case of family having differently abled persons the benefit of scheme is covered to all family members without income ceiling.

Under this scheme the entire premium shall be paid by Government to insurance company on behalf of beneficiaries. The sum assured is Rs.1.00 lakh per year per family along with a provision to pay maximum upto Rs.2.00 lakh per year for certain specified treatments.

Apart from the above certain specified treatments like cochlear implant surgeries, corrective surgeries, fitting of functional limbs and treatment along with training for autistic children are being done.

17. DISTRICT LEVEL AWARENESS SCHEME ABOUT WELFARE PROGRAMMES OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

To create awareness among differently abled as well as general public, Government have introduced scheme of generation of awareness about various welfare schemes and other initiatives of Government through street plays and road shows at district level at a cost of Rs.6.40 lakh

A sum of Rs. 6.40 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

18. SPECIAL GRIEVANCE DAY FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

With a view to render effective services and timely assistance for differently abled persons all District Collectors are conducting special grievance day camps for them once in every two months. Special grievance day camps are also being conducted at divisional level every month. In the year 2019-2020, 386 Special Grievances day camps were conducted in which 13067 petitions were received and action was taken.

19. STATE AWARDS:

Every year State Government honors persons and institutions who are rendering outstanding services for differently abled persons by presenting State awards on the occasion of Independence Day celebration. The details of the awards are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Award	Nature of Award
1.	Best Institution	10 grams of gold medal and certificate.
2.	Best Institution Award (for best institution serving differently abled persons)	10 grams of gold medal, cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and certificate.
3.	Best Social Worker Award (for outstanding work done for differently abled persons)	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.

The Central Co-operative Bank, Salem is continuously getting this award since 2011 for providing maximum amount of loan for differently abled persons.

A sum of Rs. 5.50 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

20. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

Every year 3rd December is observed as the “International Day of the Differently Abled” by State Government in accordance with declaration of the United Nations Organization. This day is observed by State Government to raise awareness throughout the society on the persons with disabilities and to foster respect for their needs in the society.

The day is observed to encourage differently abled children to show their different skills and abilities in the field of art, culture and sports. As many as 5,000 differently abled students from all over the State participate in the events. Several sports events are conducted and prizes are distributed to winners and certificates are issued to all participants.

During 2019-2020, this day has been observed by introducing new sports events to children with the

involvement of private institution, flight experience, traveling in metro train, watching movies, accessing to marina beach etc. Awareness exhibition on new hi-tech device for the differently abled persons towards rehabilitation was also conducted.

The State awards would be distributed every year to best social worker, best employee, best teacher, best institution, best conductor and best driver who excel in their services for welfare of the differently abled.

The details of the awards 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	

From 2019-2020 Government introduced 6 additional awards (1. Speech and Language Disability, 2. Autism spectrum disorder, Specific learning disability, 3. Mental illness, 4. Haemophilia, Thalassemia and Sickle cell Anemia, 5. Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease 6. Multiple Disability) under best employee category at the additional cost of Rs.1.82 Lakh. Assistive devices to

differently abled persons are also distributed on this occasion.

The Government grants special casual leave for all differently abled employees in Government departments and Government undertakings to enable them to participate in the function.

In order to make differently abled persons to participate in various special activities conducted on this day each district has been allocated with a sum of Rs.50,000/- and Rs.16.00 lakh was incurred for district level activities. A sum of Rs.21.77 lakh was incurred for conducting State level programme and totally Rs.37.77 lakh was incurred to conduct various special activities during the year 2019-2020.

A sum of Rs. 37.77 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2020-2021 for this scheme.

CONCLUSION:

Our State is taking earnest effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nation Organization by implementing all welfare schemes and to fulfill the mandatory provisions of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to promote inclusiveness and facilitate the differently abled persons to lead a dignified life in the society.

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