



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

**POLICY NOTE
2017-2018**

DEMAND No.52

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NOON MEAL PROGRAMME**

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INTRODUCTION

Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to the all round development of the differently abled persons. Towards achieving this goal, the state Government created a separate department for the differently abled persons during 1993. As a pioneering step, the Government also formulated a comprehensive welfare policy during 1994. The state Government was honoured with the National Award for the Best state for empowering differently abled persons during 2013-14.

The state Government's endeavour is to create an inclusive society by integrating the differently abled persons in the mainstream by eliminating all kinds of barriers causing hurdles in their overall development. Several innovative schemes have been introduced to prevent and

control the occurrence of disabilities and their after-effects. Many steps have been taken to access the rehabilitation services by the community. The Government also provides a number of comprehensive welfare measures to different categories of differently abled persons through the recognized and registered Non-Governmental Organizations. Budget allocation for various schemes and grants given to Non-Governmental Organizations working for the differently abled persons have consistently increased over the last 6 years.

Newly enacted "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016" has expanded the scope for ensuring the rights of differently abled persons by including more categories of disabilities. To ensure their protection through various social security schemes and other appropriate rehabilitation services, the state Government have initiated steps to create a database of all differently abled persons in the state.

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

Government of India have enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which came into force with effect from 19th day of April 2017. It is aimed at empowering the differently abled persons by adhering to the following principles-

- i. Respect for inherent dignity, individual economy including freedom to make own choice and independence of persons;
- 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 also included additional categories of differently abled persons which are as follows:-

- a) Cerebral palsy, Dwarfism, Muscular dystrophy and Disfigurement due to acid or similar corrosive substance;

- b) Speech and language disability;
- c) Intellectual disability-including specific learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, mental illness, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease;
- d) Blood disorders like "Haemophilia", "Thalassemia", "Sickle cell disease"; and
- e) Multiple disabilities.

As per section 34 of the new Act, 4% reservation of appointment in all Government establishments, Public sector undertakings, Boards, Corporations and all kinds of Educational institutions, including Universities have been provided by this Government. The Government is also taking steps to implement 5% reservation of seats in higher education as well as in allotment of agriculture land and housing for the differently abled persons. Steps are also being taken by the Government to establish Special Courts in districts to provide speedy trial of offences under the Act.

As envisaged in Section 19(2) of the Act, the State Government have decided for providing vocational training to 1000 differently abled persons through skill development corporation at a cost of ₹ 50.00 lakhs as an initial step (as per G.O.(Ms) No.67, Labour and Employment Department, dated 12.04.2017).

3. ISSUE OF NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD AND PASS BOOK:

Tamil Nadu has 11.79 Lakh differently abled persons and most of them i.e. (99%) have been provided with disability certificate and national identity card which are the basic documents for all the differently abled persons to get benefit under various welfare schemes. The differently abled persons who have 40% disability and above may approach the respective District Differently Abled Welfare Office for registration. The District Differently Abled Welfare Officer registers such requests and issues national identity card with a pass book. The differently abled persons who

have obtained national identity cards can also register themselves as members in the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the differently abled persons and avail the benefits under various social security and welfare schemes of the Board.

So far, 11,79,303 disability certificates and national identity cards have been issued to the differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu.

4. RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS WORKING FOR WELFARE OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

a) Recognition of Special Schools for Differently Abled Students:

Special schools functioning under the control of the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled are accorded recognition and renewal as per the Tamil Nadu Recognized Private Schools Regulation Act, 1973. As many as 397 special schools have been granted recognition so far.

b) Registration of Institutions for Differently Abled Persons:

As per section 51 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, no person shall establish or maintain any institution for the differently abled persons except under and in accordance with a certificate of registration issued by the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled.

As per sections 52 and 53 of the 1995 Act, the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled is the only competent authority to accord, renew and revoke the certificate of registration. So far 196 institutions have been registered under section 52 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. Thus, there are 593 registered and recognized institutions functioning for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

5. REGISTRATION OF PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION CENTRES:

Psychiatric rehabilitation centers for the mentally ill persons are regulated based on the notification of Tamil Nadu Registration of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centers of Mentally ill persons Rules, 2002. It is mandatory for the centers to get registered as per this rule. Enforcement of these rules prevents the unauthorized establishment of such centers besides enabling an ecosystem in the state to regularize and monitor the authorized centers.

6. EARLY DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN:

Hearing loss continues to be the most common birth defect in India. Early diagnosis is crucial for babies with profound or severe hearing loss. With early diagnosis, these children can be provided with appropriate amplification devices and intervention from an early age, ideally before 6 months of age. Advancements in technology have provided wide scope and opportunities to

identify hearing loss in the infants soon after birth. Early diagnostic centers have been established for the hearing impaired in 27 districts. Approximately, 10,000 infants have been screened at these centers.

7. NEW BORN SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR HEARING LOSS BABIES AT CHENNAI AND SIVAGANGAI :

A sum of ₹3,30,77,600/- has been sanctioned vide G.O.Ms.No.28, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons (DAP-2-1) Department, dated 23-9-2016 towards implementation of the new born screening programme for hearing loss in babies in Chennai and Sivagangai districts under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) for the year 2015-2016. In Chennai, the screening of new born babies will be done in 11 Corporation maternity hospitals. In Sivagangai, the pre-screening of babies will be done in the 10 different places including district head quarters hospital, taluk hospitals and upgraded primary

health centers. The sound treated cabins have been constructed in 21 hospitals. Equipments such as Immittance Audiometer, Screening ABR and Screening Oto Acoustic Emission (OAE) are being procured through the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation. Pediatricians and nurses in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units are being trained for hearing screening.

8. EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN:

Research in child development has shown that the rate of human learning and development is most rapid in the early stage of life. Early intervention is essential as the child may run the risk of missing an opportunity to learn during the early stage of readiness. With a view to prevent disability among infants and children, the Government has taken an initiative to establish and run early intervention centers in districts which cater to the needs of the children having

special needs by providing special education and special training to them and their parents.

All children with disabilities along with an escort are allowed to travel free of cost in State Transport Corporation buses from their residence to early intervention centre and back to their residence. The special educators working in various early intervention centers are being paid an honorarium of ₹ 10,000/- per month.

(a) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN :

Hearing loss is one of the most commonly found congenital anomalies occurring in approximately 2-4 infants per 1000. Hence, early detection of hearing loss is very critical for the development of age, appropriate speech, language and learning skills. If the hearing loss is identified earlier and appropriate intervention has begun, it is possible to control and rectify the delays in speech and language development.

Hence, early intervention centers for infants and young children with hearing impairment have been established with an aim to provide intensive training in such a way that the child develops adequate verbal and language skills and is ready to attend regular schools in 1st standard before the child reaches 5 years of age.

These centers are established in 29 districts, which are managed by the reputed Non-Governmental Organizations. Children under the age of 2½ years having hearing loss and without any other kind of disabilities are admitted in these centers. There is no lower age limit for admission. One of the parents is required to attend the centre along with the child. 263 boys and 229 girls are attending these centers. There are 55 special educators working in these centers.

A sum of ₹85.63 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(b) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN:

Early intervention centers for children with mental retardation in the age group of 0-6 years have been established in 31 districts (except Dharmapuri) through Non-Governmental Organizations. These centers aim at training the children, their parents and families to maximize their capabilities in mobility, day-to-day living, socialization and other skills.

Teaching, learning and play materials have been also provided at the early intervention centers for the mentally retarded children. The special educators of early intervention centers for the mentally retarded children are given refresher courses every year. In these centers, 881 boys and 591 girls are getting benefits. In all, 144 special educators and physiotherapists are working in these centers.

A sum of ₹212.04 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(c) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN:

Infants with visual impairment have unique needs which require specific interventions and adaptations in order to access and begin to understand their world. A baby born as visually impaired experiences the world differently. Since 85% of all early learning is visual, a child who is visually impaired is at greater risk for developmental delays. Effective and intensive intervention is imperative in the early years to enhance the available vision and encourage the development of other faculties and skills. In order to address this issue, early intervention centers for visually impaired have been established and managed by reputed Non-Governmental Organizations in seven districts namely Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Salem. Special attention is provided to their developmental needs to ensure that these children reach their full potential. This scheme benefits 70 boys and 58

girls in the age group of 0-6 years. The number of special educators working in these centers is 14.

A sum of ₹21.98 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(d) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AT TRICHY:

Cerebral palsy is a unique condition which needs to be treated by inter-disciplinary team members such as physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist and special educators. In this centre, these members work together as a team and provide infant stimulation programme for children below 3 years of age and early stimulation programme for children between 3-6 years of age. 39 boys and 14 girls with cerebral palsy are attending this centre.

A sum of ₹7.02 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(e) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AT TIRUNELVELI, KANNIYAKUMARI AND THANJAVUR:

Autism is a socio-neural developmental disorder that requires a specialized approach for treatment. Therapies and behavioural intervention are designed to modify certain specific symptoms which can bring about substantial improvement. Early intervention programme emphasizes attending to social stimuli, imitation skills, language comprehension and usage, appropriate play skills and social intervention. On a pilot basis, three centers have been established and managed by Non-Governmental Organizations in Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari and Thanjavur Districts. In all, 78 children with autism are attending these centers.

A sum of ₹8.46 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

9. PROVISION OF WEANING FOOD AND SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO CHILDREN IN EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES:

Infants and children with disabilities can suffer from the ill-effects of malnutrition in the same way as the children without disabilities, leading to poor health outcomes; missing of or delay in reaching developmental milestones; and acquiring avoidable secondary conditions as well as unnecessary stunting in physical growth. In order to address the issue of access to nutritious food for children with disabilities, weaning food and noon-meal is provided at early intervention centers through the nearby Anganwadi centers functioning under the Integrated Child Development Services. As many as 2463 children with disabilities in 78 early intervention centers benefit under this scheme.

A sum of ₹ 4.15 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme

10. MOBILE THERAPY UNIT:

Differently abled children in the age group of 0-6 years along with their escorts find it difficult to reach the early intervention centers which are located in the district headquarters. In order to help such children, 32 mobile therapy units are deployed throughout the state at a cost of ₹4.49 crores. In each unit, all the required therapy equipments are provided and services are rendered at the door steps of the beneficiaries. By using the mobile therapy units, local camps and awareness programmes for the differently abled persons are conducted to ensure preventive care. These mobile therapy units are utilized to provide early intervention care to control the effect of disability in the children under 6 years of age in the unreached rural areas of the districts. So far, 964 camps were held and 8878 children were benefitted.

A sum of ₹99.48 Lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-18 for this scheme.

11. STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE AT CHENNAI :

State Resource-cum-Training Centre, Chennai was started in the year 2005 with an aim to provide specialized services and information under one roof for all categories of differently abled persons by Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. Disability certificates and national identity cards were issued from this centre to 4208 differently abled persons for availing railway travel concession and bus travel with escort services, income tax exemption and also to avail extra time in Government examinations, etc.

Early intervention centers for hearing impaired, cerebral palsy, auditory verbal therapy centre, autism, mentally retarded and sensory integration unit have been established at this centre. 1682 children with disabilities in the age group of 0-5 years are attending the early intervention centers. Various training programmes

are organized at this centre. Under Digital India Programme, all the special educators and mothers have been trained and given certificate. UNICEF has provided capacity building training in nutrition and diet for children with disabilities to special educators and care givers. A new building for "Therapeutical Service Centre" was constructed by the Tamilnadu Police Housing Corporation by using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and this building is now put to use in the campus of the State Resource-cum-Training Centre.

A sum of ₹27.10 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

12. REGIONAL STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE AT TRICHY:

In this centre, disability certificates and national identity cards are issued to differently abled persons. This centre also houses early intervention centers for children with autism and multiple disability, sensory integration unit, day

care Centre for mentally ill persons and counseling / guidance/ information centre. As many as 5000 differently abled persons have benefitted by availing the above services at this centre.

A sum of ₹9.81 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

13. HOMES FOR MENTALLY ILL PERSONS:

It is the duty of the Government to protect and maintain the interests of mentally ill persons, as the attitude of the society towards these persons has been by and large one of neglect. It is essential to ensure that no stigma is attached to such 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.

In order to provide shelter, food, medical facilities and rehabilitation services to the mentally ill persons, mentally ill homes have been established through the voluntary organizations in all districts. In each of these homes, 50 mentally ill persons can be accommodated. Currently, there are 1,385 mentally ill persons who are benefitted under the scheme.

A sum of ₹286.58 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

14. SPECIAL SCHOOLS:

The Government is ensuring that the children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary or secondary education on the basis of disability. To achieve this, special education is provided to the differently abled students studying in 76 Government and Government aided special schools across the state. This also includes 22

Government special schools (10 for visually impaired, 10 for hearing impaired and 1 for severely locomotor disabled and 1 for mentally retarded). There are 54 Government aided special schools managed by Non-Governmental Organizations.

These 22 Government special schools include 5 higher secondary schools, 3 for the visually impaired at Poonamallee (Boys), Trichy (Girls) and Thanjavur and 2 schools for hearing impaired at Dharmapuri and Thanjavur.

Children studying in the Government special schools are given boarding and lodging facilities free of cost. Sports materials, teaching and learning materials, solar water heaters and power laundry are also provided to these special schools. The differently abled students studying in Government special schools are taken out for educational study tour once in a year.

These special schools (Government and aided schools) are supported with financial assistance to feed the students. During the year 2012-13, the Government has enhanced the feeding grant from ₹ 450/- to ₹ 650/- per student per month. From February 2015, the day scholars are also provided with the noon-meal on par with other differently abled children.

With this intervention, the Government special schools for visually impaired at Poonamallee, Thanjavur, and Trichy have achieved 100 percent students promoted status in 10th standard. The Government girls higher secondary school for visually impaired at Trichy has also achieved 100 percent result in promoting 12th standard students. The state Government have also strengthened the infrastructure of the special school by constructing new building for the Government school for the hearing impaired at Pudukkotai at the cost of ₹ 1.16 crores.

15. SCHOLARSHIP:

All differently abled children are given free education. Scholarship is provided to them to meet their incidental expenditure during the course of their education and the amount provided varies with the standard and also with reference to the UG courses, professional and other courses. From the financial year 2013-2014, the scholarship amount is provided as below:-

Sl. No.	Standard	Enhanced Amount
1.	I Std. to V Std.	₹ 1,000/-
2.	VI Std. to VIII Std.	₹ 3,000/-
3.	IX Std. to XII Std.	₹ 4,000/-
4.	U.G. Courses	₹ 6,000/-
5.	Professional and P.G. Courses	₹ 7,000/-

A sum of ₹ 700.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

16. READERS ALLOWANCE:

In order to encourage the learning process for the visually impaired students, the Government is providing readers allowance to those who are studying in 9th standard and above up to post-graduation level as below:

Sl. No.	Standard	Enhanced Amount
1.	9 th Std. to 12 th Std.	₹ 3,000/-
2.	UG Courses	₹ 5,000/-
3.	Professional and P.G. Courses	₹ 6,000/-

A sum of ₹ 79.87 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

17. SCRIBE ASSISTANCE:

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

About 500 students studying in the following 6 special schools are benefitted under this scheme every year:

- (1) The Government Higher Secondary School for Visually Impaired, Poonamallee.
- (2) The Government Higher Secondary School for Visually Impaired, Trichirappalli.
- (3) The Government Higher Secondary School for Visually Impaired, Thanjavur.
- (4) The Little Flower Convent Higher Secondary School for Visually Impaired, Chennai.
- (5) St. Louis Institute for Visually Impaired, Chennai.
- (6) The Indian Association for Visually Impaired Higher Secondary School, Madurai.

A sum of ₹ 39.84 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

18. SUPPLY OF TEXT BOOKS TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AIDED SPECIAL SCHOOLS:

Tamil Nadu Text Book Corporation is supplying free text-books to the differently abled students including Braille Books to the visually impaired studying from 1st standard to 12th standard in the Government and Government aided special schools.

19. FREE UNIFORMS TO THE STUDENTS STUDYING IN GOVERNMENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS:

As a part of their welfare, the differently abled students studying in the Government special schools are provided with four sets of uniforms every year. 1301 students were given uniform sets under this scheme in the year 2016-2017.

A sum of ₹13.96 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

20. LAPTOP COMPUTERS TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS:

Laptop computers are given to the visually impaired and the hearing impaired students studying in 12th standard in the Government and Government aided special schools free of cost. 400 students have received Laptop computers during the year 2016–2017. Totally 1906 students have received Laptop computers in the last 4 years.

21. PROVIDING DVD PLAYERS TO FACILITATE EDUCATION OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS:

Growing educational need for the visually impaired students necessitates the provision of new accessories which enable them to study well. The visually impaired students, particularly students studying in 10th and 12th standard at Government special schools for the visually impaired at Tiruchirappalli, Poonamallee and Thanjavur are provided lessons in various subjects in CDs with incidental accessories such

as head phones and DVD players along with pen drives. 135 students have benefitted during the year 2016-17.

A sum of ₹ 7.77 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

22. CASH INCENTIVE SCHEME TO PREVENT DROP-OUTS:

Cash incentives are provided to the 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. 1235 students have benefitted under this scheme during the year 2016-2017.

Sl. No.	Standard	Cash Incentive per annum
1.	10th Standard	₹ 1,500/
2.	11th Standard	₹ 1,500/
3.	12th Standard	₹ 2,000/

A sum of ₹21.56 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

23. B.COM. AND B.C.A. COURSES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS:

B.Com. and B.C.A. courses were started exclusively for the hearing impaired students in the Presidency College at Chennai. 15 students are admitted every year in each course. This enables the differently abled students with hearing impairment to pursue graduate courses in applied subjects.

A sum of ₹4.57 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

24. ASSISTANCE TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED LAW GRADUATES:

The differently abled law graduates are given financial assistance of ₹3,000/- each for enrolment in Bar Council as Lawyers and also for

purchase of law books. A maximum of 15 law graduates are benefitted under this scheme every year.

A sum of ₹0.45 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

25. SALARY GRANT TO SPECIAL EDUCATORS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE 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 of ₹ 10,000/- each per month for 12 months. Salary grant is provided to 3 special educators in each special school.

A sum of ₹176.40 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

26. TRAINING PROGRAMMES:

The persons with disabilities are experiencing many disadvantages in the labour market. A decent job would support them to overcome poverty. To facilitate this, following training programmes are being imparted for the differently abled persons enabling them to acquire knowledge and skills in various trades free of cost.

(a) MULTIMEDIA AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

One month training in multimedia is provided to 200 locomotor differently abled persons and hearing impaired persons at the regional office, National Film Development Corporation Limited, Chennai. On completion of training, the differently abled persons have a chance to get placement in entertainment industry, as there is demand for the multimedia trained personnel in the entertainment industry

like television broadcasting and advertisement sectors. 200 differently abled persons benefitted under this scheme and ₹ 21.75 lakh was spent in 2016-17.

A sum of ₹ 21.75 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(b) FITTER TRAINING TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED:

Fitter training is provided to the hearing impaired for a period of 2 years with a stipend of ₹ 300/- per month. Every year, 21 hearing impaired persons undergo training programme in "Fitter" trade in the special training wing at the Government I.T.I., Guindy.

A sum of ₹ 0.75 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

27. ENSURING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS THROUGH RESERVATION:

The Government provides job opportunities to the differently abled persons by ensuring reservations in jobs for them in Government departments/Government undertakings and other Government agencies. Recently, Government have issued orders to implement 4% reservation in employment in Government, Public sector undertakings, Boards, Corporations and Educational institutions. An expert committee has also been formed for identification of group 'A' and 'B' posts suitable for the differently abled persons as per the provisions under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Already a committee had been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government with Secretaries of various departments as members to oversee the implementation of 3% reservation. Orders were

issued by the Government in G.O. (Ms) No.200, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, dated 26.12.2006 to carry forward the vacancies earmarked for the differently abled persons which were not filled up due to non-availability of differently abled persons in the particular recruitment year for the subsequent period of 3 years.

As envisaged in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the state Government departments have already identified suitable posts for the differently abled persons in Group "A" and "B" categories. Similarly, the state Government undertakings, statutory boards and universities have also been directed to identify suitable posts under Groups "A", "B", "C" and "D" categories which is mandatory as per the G.O. (Ms) No.99, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, dated 26-02-1988. In G.O. (Ms.) No.10, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 04.03.2014, orders

were issued to fill-up the 1928 backlog vacancies meant for differently abled persons in various departments. The Government have also issued orders in G.O. (Ms.) No13, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 02.03.2016 identifying 263 posts in all the Government agencies to reserve 3% for employment of differently abled persons in suitable posts in group 'A' and 'B' categories.

(a) Skill Training to Differently Abled Persons:

In accordance with Tamil Nadu vision 2023, which envisages the skilling of youth in Tamil Nadu, 1000 differently abled persons have been selected for skill training so as to ensure job placement in public and private sectors at a cost of ₹ 50.00 lakh during the year 2016-17.

(b) Job Placement in Private Sector:

The Government is taking special efforts to organize job fair exclusively for placing the differently abled persons in private organizations.

During the year 2016-17, as many as 966 differently abled persons have been placed in various organizations.

28. MICRO ENTERPRISES AND BUNK STALLS:

The differently abled persons are motivated for establishing self-employment ventures and micro enterprises by the department. They are assisted to avail loans from the nationalized banks. A subsidy of ₹ 10,000/- or one third of the loan amount, whichever is less, is given to the differently abled persons to start self-employment ventures /enterprises. During 2016-17, a sum of ₹ 1.20 crores has been allocated to benefit 1200 persons.

A sum of ₹ 80.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

29(a) Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme:

To provide opportunities for self-employment for the differently abled persons under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Scheme, loan is sanctioned by banks for setting up of ventures/projects/micro-enterprises in the manufacturing / business / service sectors. 5% share amount to be paid by the differently abled persons as margin money is borne by the state Government as grant. To avail this concession, the differently abled persons have to apply online to District Industries Centres. These applications are scrutinized and placed before the district selection committee headed by the District Collector. This committee selects the beneficiary under the scheme. During the year 2016-2017, a sum of ₹ 5.00 lakh was spent to benefit 18 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹ 5.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(b) Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme:

In order to provide employment opportunities, bank loan is given to the differently abled persons for setting up of self employment enterprises. 5% share amount to be paid by them as margin money is borne by the state Government as grant. To avail this concession, they submit applications to the District Differently Aabled Welfare Offices and District Industries Centres. These applications are scrutinized and placed before the district selection committee headed by the District Collector. During the year 2016-2017, a sum of ₹ 13.00 lakh was spent to benefit 122 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹ 15.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

30. NHFDC ASSISTED SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME:

The state Government is taking effective steps to provide financial assistance for the

self-employment schemes sponsored by the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC), Government of India. The Government of India has appointed the Tamil Nadu State Central Co-operative Bank Limited as the channelizing agency for providing self-employment loan to the differently abled. In order to encourage a large number of differently abled persons to take up various economic activities for their upliftment and to avail the credit facilities from the nearby co-operative banks, the state Government have launched the scheme of interest free loan for those availing the same from the co-operative banks. The interest is borne by the state Government. During the year 2016-17, a sum of ₹ 17.00 crore has been utilized to benefit 3355 persons.

31. UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

As part of the social security for the unemployed differently abled persons in the age

group of 18 years and above, unemployment allowances are given based on their educational qualification as indicated below:-

S. No.	Educational Qualification	Unemployment Allowance per Month
1.	Upto 10th std.	₹ 600/-
2.	H.S.C.	₹ 750/-
3.	Graduates / Post Graduates	₹ 1000/-

The unemployed differently abled persons should have been in the live register of employment exchange for a minimum period of one year to get the benefit under this scheme. Totally, 24,556 differently abled persons were benefitted during the year 2016-2017 under this scheme. A sum of ₹ 22.66 crore has been utilized.

A sum of ₹ 2267.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

32. SOCIAL SECURITY:

The Government is providing financial support in the form of maintenance allowances for the severely affected locomotor, mentally retarded and muscular dystrophy affected persons.

(a) Maintenance Allowance to Mentally Retarded Persons, Severely Affected Persons and Persons Affected with Muscular Dystrophy:

Maintenance allowance of ₹1500/- per month for 12 months is given to differently abled persons of different categories as detailed below:

S. No	Category of Disability	Criteria Percentage of Disability	Income ceiling	No. of beneficiaries
1	Mentally Retarded persons	45% and above	No	125561
2	Severely Affected persons	75% and above	No	18526
3	Persons Affected with Muscular Dystrophy	40% and above	No	2572

A sum of ₹24449.91 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for mentally retarded and severely affected persons and persons affected with muscular dystrophy respectively.

(b) Maintenance Allowance to Leprosy Affected Persons:

Leprosy affected persons are given maintenance allowance of ₹1,000/- per month since December, 2012. Inmates accommodated in the Government rehabilitation homes are also eligible to receive this allowance under this scheme. From 2014-2015, the allowance is sent through "ECS" directly from treasury to bank account of the beneficiaries. 5,729 leprosy affected persons were benefitted during the year 2016-2017. Orders were issued to enhance the maintenance allowances for leprosy affected persons from ₹1000 to ₹1500/- from 07.06.2017.

A sum of ₹1039.36 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

33. INFORMATION CENTRE FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED:

Information centre for the differently abled is functioning at the State Resource-cum-Training Centre campus, K.K. Nagar, Chennai-78. Information relating the various schemes implemented by the central and state Governments for the differently abled persons to avail the benefits, disability identity card, aids & appliances, travel concessions, maintenance allowance schemes, district early intervention centers, special schools, education, vocational training and employment is provided to differently abled persons here. Information centre's contact numbers are 044-24719942, Toll Free

Number-1800 425 0111 and Fax No. 044-24719943. So far, 1776 calls have been attended to by this centre during 2016-17.

A sum of ₹4.68 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

34. ASSISTIVE DEVICES TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS :

Following aids and appliances are provided and distributed to the differently abled persons, based on their needs every year through the department to enable them to lead an independent life.

- I. Wheel chairs
- II. Goggles
- III. Folding sticks
- IV. Braille Watches
- V. Hearing Aids
- VI. Solar rechargeable batteries
- VII. Calipers

VIII. Crutches

IX. Artificial limbs

X. Tricycles

Calipers and artificial limbs are designed, fabricated and fitted by orthotic technicians along with the leather workers for each and every individual as per the need of the units of District Differently Abled Welfare Offices functioning in the districts.

A sum of ₹75.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

35. MODULAR AIDS AND APPLIANCES:

- (a) Retro-fitted petrol scooters;
- (b) Behind the ear hearing aid;
- (c) Modified cerebral palsy wheel chairs
- (d) Magnifiers for low vision students.
- (e) Special wheel chair for spinal cord affected persons

(a) RETROFITTED PETROL SCOOTERS TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS AFFECTED WITH BOTH LOWER LIMBS:

Petrol scooters with retrofitment are distributed to both lower-limb affected differently abled students and employees free of cost. During the year 2016-2017, 1,017 retrofitted petrol scooters were distributed to the differently abled persons at a cost of ₹598.64 lakh. During 2017-2018, 2000 Petrol scooters are to be distributed.

A sum of ₹599.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017–2018 for this scheme.

(b) “BEHIND THE EAR” HEARING AIDS TO HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS:

The Government have been providing body level hearing aids to hearing impaired persons. The hearing impaired persons hesitate to wear body level hearing aids in public places and as a result, their hearing ability is affected. Hence, “Behind the Ear” model hearing aids are provided

now to the hearing impaired students, employed and self employed persons. 3460 hearing impaired persons were benefitted under this scheme during the year 2015-2016 at a cost of ₹ 1.00 crore.

A sum of ₹ 100.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(c) MODIFIED CEREBRAL PALSY WHEEL CHAIRS:

Modified wheel chairs are given to the cerebral palsy affected persons for their comfortable mobility. Under the scheme, 473 beneficiaries have been benefitted at a cost of ₹ 26.39 lakh during the year 2015-2016.

A sum of ₹ 27.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(d) MAGNIFIERS FOR LOW VISION STUDENTS:

Magnifiers are being provided by the Government from the year 2012-13 for the students who have low vision. This scheme was implemented at a cost of ₹9.52 lakh which benefitted 138 students during the year 2015-2016.

A sum of ₹10.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

(e) SPECIAL WHEEL CHAIR FOR SPINAL CORD AFFECTED PERSONS:

Special wheel chairs for the spinal cord affected persons with special provisions for their comfort has been provided to 960 persons at a cost of ₹ 1.92 crore during the year 2015-2016.

36. NEW ASSISTIVE DEVICES INTRODUCED DURING THE YEAR 2016-2017:

(a) MODULAR REFLECTIVE FOLDING STICKS TO VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS:

Modular reflective folding sticks (Smart cane) will be provided to persons who are visually impaired. The modular reflective folding sticks have new technology features to identify objects on all sides so that the visually impaired persons are properly guided while using the smart cane. For this purpose, a sum of ₹1.58 crore has been provided for the year 2016-2017 to benefit about 5000 persons.

A sum of ₹245.12 Lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-18 for this scheme.

(b) AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM DEVICE:

Augmentative and alternative communication system device along with a special software called AVAZ has been introduced for the

welfare of special school children suffering from autism, cerebral palsy and mental retardation. In the first phase, this special device with the software has been given to all early intervention centers and children served under mobile therapy unit. During the year 2016-2017, a sum of ₹ 1.06 crore has been allotted to benefit 391 special children.

37. TRAVEL CONCESSION TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS IN STATE OWNED TRANSPORT CORPORATION BUSES:

Travel concessions are provided to the differently abled persons to travel in the state owned transport corporation buses without any income ceiling. Differently abled students studying in the special schools are permitted to travel without cost from their residence to special school and back to their residence. 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 travel concession with certain conditions in order to pursue their education, visit hospitals, training centers and to undertake employment. The persons with mental retardation are permitted to travel along with one escort free of cost.

All categories of differently abled persons are permitted to avail 75% concession on travel to any place in the state in all types of buses except air-conditioned bus without any restrictions on the number of trips. 75% concession is also given to the escort who accompanies the differently abled persons who cannot travel alone.

All categories of children with disabilities are permitted to travel free of cost along with one escort from their residence to early intervention

centers and the pre-schools and back to their residence.

A sum of ₹3334.83 Lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

38. MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The state Government provides marriage assistance to encourage the able bodied persons to marry the differently abled persons. The marriage assistance includes ₹25,000/- and 4 grams of gold coin for making "Thirumangalyam" for the bride. From the year 2012-2013, differently abled persons who have completed graduation / diploma, a sum of ₹50,000/- and 4 grams of gold coin for making "Thirumangalyam" for bride are given as marriage assistance. Now, the assistance is given with 8 grams of gold coin.

Following are the details of various categories under marriage assistance scheme.

Sl. No	Name of the Scheme	Graduates / Diploma Holders	Others
1.	Assistance to normal person marrying visually impaired	1. Cash assistance of ₹ 25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for ₹ 25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams	1. Cash assistance of ₹ 12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for ₹ 12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams
2.	Assistance to normal person marrying orthopedically handicapped	1. Cash assistance of ₹ 25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for ₹ 25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams	1. Cash assistance of ₹ 12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for ₹ 12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams
3.	Assistance to normal person marrying speech and hearing impaired	1. Cash assistance of ₹ 25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for ₹ 25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams	1. Cash assistance of ₹ 12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for ₹ 12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams

4.	Assistance to Differently Abled person marrying differently abled	1. Cash assistance of ₹ 25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for ₹ 25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams	1. Cash assistance of ₹ 12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for ₹ 12,500/- 3. Gold Coin-8 Grams
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There is no ceiling on the number of beneficiaries and therefore all the eligible applicants who apply receive the marriage assistance. In the year 2015-2016, ₹4.24 crore was allotted under the scheme and 858 beneficiaries have received marriage assistance.

A sum of ₹265.83 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

39. RESCUE SCHEME:

Mentally ill persons left unattended by the family and found wandering in the streets and other public places are rescued and admitted in the hospitals/ rehabilitation homes for the

mentally ill. This scheme is implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations. During 2016-17, 632 mentally ill persons were rescued and admitted into hospitals/ homes for mentally ill persons.

A sum of ₹ 7.50 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

40. DAY CARE CENTRES FOR PERSONS WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY:

Muscular dystrophy is a genetic disease characterized by progressive weakness of muscles which totally cripples the mobility of the individual. This disease needs continuous medical care, physiotherapy and support services. Day care centers have been established in Chennai, Vellore, Madurai and Tirunelveli to provide medical support, physiotherapy and guidance to persons with muscular dystrophy. These day care centers are managed by Non-Governmental Organizations with Government assistance. A sum

of ₹ 29.47 lakh has been utilized during the year 2016-17 under this scheme.

A sum of ₹ 29.48 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

a) Molecular Diagnostics, Counseling, Care and Research Centre (MDCRC), Coimbatore.

Molecular Diagnostics, Counseling, Care and Research centre (MDCRC), Coimbatore is a not for profit organization working in the area of Public health with a focus on Duchenne muscular dystrophy and spinal muscular dystrophy. This centre offers services on molecular diagnostics, counseling, multi disciplinary clinical care and rehabilitation services. All the services are offered free of cost. The resources are supported by government agencies and other donors. MDCRC works in tandem with various government agencies like District Differently Abled Welfare Offices, Sarva Shikshya Abiyan and other

Non-Governmental Organisations working in the area of disability to collect lists of differently abled mainly muscular dystrophy cases in Tamil Nadu. The mutation detection helps in carrier counseling and prenatal diagnosis. Identification and confirmation through DNA diagnosis helps us to prevent this disorder which serves the purpose to prevent further occurrence in the family.

41. TAMIL NADU WELFARE BOARD FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

Tamil Nadu Welfare Board has been reconstituted by including new members vide G.O.(ID) No.31, Differently Abled Welfare (DAP.2) Department, dated 31.03.2017. The Board implements the following social security and welfare schemes for the differently abled persons:-

(1)	Personal accident relief:	
	The Compensation provided under the scheme is as follows:	
	(a)	Death
(b)	Loss of both lower or upper limb or total dysfunction and irrecoverable loss of limbs	₹ 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	₹ 50,000/-
	(d)	Permanent total disablement from injuries other than those specified in items (b) and (c) above	₹ 25,000/-
(2)	Assistance to meet the funeral expenses of a differently abled person		₹ 2,000/-
(3)	Assistance on the natural death of a differently abled person		₹ 15,000/-
(4)	Assistance for education of the son or daughter of a differently abled person:		
	(a)	(i) if the daughter of the applicant is studying in 10 th standard	₹ 1,000/-
		(ii) if the son or daughter of the applicant had passed the 10th standard examination	₹ 1,000/-
	(b)	(i) if the daughter of an applicant is studying in +1 standard	₹ 1,000/-
	(c)	(i) if the daughter of the applicant is studying in +2 standard	₹ 1,500/-
		(ii) if the son or daughter of the applicant had passed +2	₹ 1,500/-
	(d)	(i) if the son or daughter of the applicant is studying in regular Bachelor Degree course (for every academic year of the course)	₹ 1,500/-

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

	(ii)	if the son or daughter studying the course and staying in the hostel	₹ 1,200/-
5	Assistance for Marriage (any one of the couple is eligible or this assistance)		₹ 2,000/-
6.	Assistance for delivery or miscarriage of pregnancy or the termination of pregnancy to a differently abled female members		
	(i)	Delivery	₹ 6,000/-
	(ii)	Miscarriage	₹ 3,000/-
	(iii)	Termination of pregnancy	₹ 3,000/-
7	Assistance for purchase of spectacles by a differently abled person		₹ 500/-

Differently abled persons above the age of 10 years are eligible to become member and they can enroll and get benefits from the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹ 100.00 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

42. GOVERNMENT REHABILITATION HOMES:

The Government has established 10 rehabilitation homes for persons affected with leprosy. These homes were started with the

intention to provide medical assistance and rehabilitation. These homes are located in the following places:

Sl. No.	Place of the Government Rehabilitation Home
1.	Paranur, Kancheepuram District
2.	Ulundurpet, Villupuram District
3.	Bargur, Krishnagiri District
4.	Pudukottai, Pudukottai District
5.	Manaiyeripatti, Thanjavur District
6.	Y. Pudupatti, Madurai District
7.	Mallavadi, Thiruvannamalai District
8.	Selliampatti, Dharmapuri District
9.	Deviyakurichi, Salem District
10.	Vinnapalli, Erode District

1010 inmates were accommodated in these homes during the year 2016-2017. Voluntary admission into these homes is made after confirmation of the disease by the specialist. The Government rehabilitation home, Ulundurpet admits leprosy beggars who are convicted by the Judicial Magistrate. The patients are admitted

along with their family members. The inmates are discharged from the home either on good health condition or on disciplinary grounds.

The inmates are provided with free boarding, lodging, clothing, medical facilities, library and recreation facilities, such as games, musical instruments and television. Able inmates are trained in mat weaving, cloth weaving, tailoring and shoe-making. They are paid wages for the goods produced by them.

Each inmate is supplied food at a cost of ₹42/-per day for adults and ₹37/- per day for children. 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 of ₹5/- per inmate. Two sets of clothes are distributed every year during Pongal and Deepavali festivals. Every year, micro cellular rubber footwear and mats are supplied. Plates and tumblers are supplied once in five years and

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.

The inmates are provided medical assistance by the medical officers in each home. Required medicines are purchased through Tamil Nadu Medical Service Corporation. Funds are allocated to each home covering following items:

Sl. No	Item	Expenditure allotted per annum
1.	Supply of special type of shoes and artificial limbs (for needy inmates)	₹ 1,000/-
2.	Purchase of spectacles	₹ 5,000/-
3.	Tooth brush and Tooth powder	₹ 2,500/-
4.	Sports materials	₹ 1,200/-
5.	Musical Instruments	₹ 400/-

Further, the Government have sanctioned ₹ 2,000/-per case to perform the funeral rituals for the deceased inmates. Assistive Daily Living Kits (ADL Kit) were distributed to 326 eligible

leprosy affected persons at a cost of ₹ 13.27 lakh during 2016-17. During the year 2016-2017, a sum of ₹ 27.53 lakh was sanctioned for construction of modern kitchen in Government rehabilitation home, Deviyakurichi. The construction work is under progress.

A sum of ₹ 877.94 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

43. HOMES FOR THE ADULT MENTALLY RETARDED OF ABOVE 14 YEARS:

The Government runs homes for adult mentally retarded in 32 districts. There are totally 42 homes which include 7 homes for both genders and 16 homes for males and 19 homes for females exclusively. Totally, 1640 beneficiaries are getting benefit at the cost of ₹ 400.57 lakh.

A sum of ₹ 406.06 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

44. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS MAINTAINING HOMES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED:

The Government is providing financial assistances to Non-Governmental Organizations who give care and protection to mentally retarded persons. The assistance includes construction of new building / extension of building, rent payment as per requirement and feeding charges for the inmates.

A sum of ₹340.84 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

45. THREE DAY CARE CENTRES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN THENI DISTRICT ESTABLISHED THROUGH NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS:

Three day care centers for the mentally retarded are functioning in Theni district benefiting 90 children. The Non-Governmental Organizations run these centers with the

grants-in-aid assistance provided by the Government. ₹11.64 Lakh has been utilized during the year 2016-2017.

A sum of ₹11.64 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

46. ASSISTANCE TO SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR THE PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION AT THENI DISTRICT RUN BY THE NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION:

In Theni District, one special school for the mentally retarded children is established. This scheme is being implemented by Non-Governmental Organization to provide special education to 25 mentally retarded children with the assistance of Government and a sum of ₹2.90 Lakh has been utilized during the year 2016-17.

A sum of ₹3.13 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

47. SALARY GRANT TO SPECIAL EDUCATORS AND THERAPIST (PHYSIOTHERAPIST / OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST / SPEECH THERAPIST) EMPLOYED IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED:

Special educators and therapists working in the special schools for the mentally retarded persons run by the Non-Governmental Organizations are given salary grant apart from the salary paid to them by their institutions. In order to encourage the special educators and therapists (physiotherapist / occupational therapist / speech therapist) to continue to work for the mentally retarded children, the salary grant has been enhanced from ₹ 5,000/ per month to ₹ 10,000/- per month since December, 2012 onwards.

A sum of ₹ 869.81 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

48. GOVERNMENT CARE CAMP AT MELPAKKAM:

With a view to prevent the act of beggary and to rehabilitate the beggars, this camp was started. The beggars are admitted and detained here on conviction under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Beggary Act, 1945 for the period of detention as ordered by the court. They are provided with free boarding, lodging, clothing and medical facilities and are also given training in various trades like weaving, carpentry, pottery and tailoring.

A sum of ₹72.14 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

49. BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

The Government is very keen in providing barrier free structures to differently abled persons to access public buildings. Handrails, ramps and barrier free toilets are being constructed in all Government buildings. So far 1,80,050 buildings

of Rural Development Department, 2,802 building under the control of Corporation of Chennai and 5,890 commercial complexes have been made barrier free.

Besides, audio alert systems have been fixed to identify bus routes in 75 buses at the cost of ₹9.50 lakh in Chennai Metropolitan city .

50. ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN (SUGAMYA BHARATH ABHIYAN):

The state Government have also involved various line departments and network of Non-Governmental Organisations in the state in implementing the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and National Trust Act, 1999. While implementing the Persons with Disabilities Act, provision of barrier free structures in the public buildings in coordination with the Government of India through "Accessible India Campaign" (Sugamya Bharath Abhiyan) has been made. It is a nationwide flagship programme for

achieving universal accessibility that will enable persons with disabilities to gain access for equal opportunity, live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life in an inclusive society. The campaign targets at enhancing the accessibility of built environment, transport system and information and communication eco-system. The Government of India has selected Chennai and Coimbatore cities to initially develop barrier free structures in 49 Government buildings under SIPDA funds. They have also sanctioned ₹ 15.93 crore and also released ₹ 7.96 crore so far to commence the retrofitting work in these buildings.

Tamil Nadu is one of the states which have been selected under **Accessible India Campaign** under which 50 Government buildings each in Chennai and Coimbatore will be made as fully barrier free for the differently abled persons by **July 2019**.

51. SCHEME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 1995 (SIPDA):-

The Government of India supports the state Government for construction of barrier free structures in Government public buildings under the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 (SIPDA). Under the scheme, the Government of India sanctioned an amount of ₹ 230 lakh for the year 2015–2016.

52. FIXING AUDITORY SIGNALS AT THE TRAFFIC JUNCTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED:

Auditory signals would be fixed shortly at 150 traffic signals in Chennai city for the benefit of visually impaired persons at cost of ₹ 75.00 lakh. Besides, an alert system in Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) buses to make travel easy for visually impaired persons has been introduced in 75 buses plying on 10 routes in the city. A sum of ₹ 9.50 lakh has been allotted for the initiative.

53. WELFARE ACTIVITIES UNDER CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FUNDS:

The Department has taken initiative to channelize funds under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) from various state undertakings during 2015-2016. As a result, the department received ₹ 1.09 crore. Out of this fund, a sum of ₹ 90.40 lakh has been utilized to provide various facilities and assistive devices to the differently abled persons which are as follows:

Sl. No	Name of the device/facilities	No. provided	Amount spent in lakh
1.	Augmentative and Alternative Communication System Device	197	49.25
2.	Digital Magnifiers	200	13.80
3.	Battery operated buggy vehicles for the use of DAPs	2	9.90
4.	Braille Watches	42	0.45
5.	Infrastructure		17.0
	Total		90.40

Besides these items, a building for providing physiotherapy services has been constructed at Chennai at the cost of ₹ 15.00 lakh.

A sum of ₹ 17.20 lakh has been received in the year 2016–2017 so far under the Corporate Social Responsibility funding.

54. STATE AWARDS:

Every year, the state Government honours the persons and institutions who are rendering outstanding services for the 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 Employer Award	10 grams of gold medal and Certificate.
2.	Best Institution Award (for Best Institution serving Disabled persons)	10 grams of gold medal, cash prize of ₹ 50,000/- and certificate.
3.	Best Social Worker Award (for outstanding work done for disabled)	10 grams of gold medal and certificate.

4.	Best Doctor Award	10 grams of gold and certificate.
5.	Best Collector Award	10 grams of gold Medal, certificate and cash prize of ₹ 25,000/-
6.	Best District Co-operative Bank for providing maximum amount of loan	10 grams of gold and certificate.

A sum of ₹ 5.50 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

55. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS:

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 day is observed by the state Government to raise awareness throughout the society regarding the persons with disabilities and to foster respect for their rights.

The day is celebrated to encourage the differently abled persons 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 the participants.

On this day, state awards are distributed to the Best social worker, Best employee, Best teacher, Best institution, Best conductor and Best driver, who excel in their services for the welfare of the differently abled. The details of the awards are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Award	Nature of Award
1.	Best Employer Award	10 grams of gold medal and certificate
2.	Best Employee Award (5 categories)	10 grams of gold medal and certificate
3.	Best Teacher Award (3 categories)	10 grams of gold medal and certificate
4.	Best Institution Award	10 grams of gold medal and certificate

5.	Best Driver Award	10 grams of gold medal and certificate
6.	Best Conductor Award	10 grams of gold medal and certificate

Aids and appliances to the differently abled persons are also distributed on this occasion. The Government grant special casual leave for all the differently abled employees in Government departments / undertakings to enable them to participate in the function.

A sum of ₹19.18 lakh has been provided in the budget estimate for the year 2017-2018 for this scheme.

56. CHIEF MINISTER'S COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURENCE SCHEME:

The Government while promoting various social security schemes for the differently abled have also introduced the insurance scheme for the residents of the state covering their family members without considering their income.

Tamil Nadu Health Systems Society is the implementing agency for this insurance scheme.

The entire premium is paid by the Government to the insurance company on behalf of the beneficiaries. The sum assured is ₹ 1.00 lakh per year per family along with a provision to pay upto ₹ 1.50 lakh per year per family for certain specified treatments.

57. ONE DAY TOUR PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN, CARETAKERS AND SPECIAL EDUCATORS IN 78 EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES IN TAMIL NADU THROUGH TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED:

Early intervention plays an important role in the 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 for 1560 children, caretakers and special educators in 78 early intervention centers in Tamil Nadu was organized through Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Limited at a cost of ₹ 7.80 lakh during 2016-2017.

58. ONLINE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS:

The Government has decided to provide online processing of applications for the following services to avail the assistances without any difficulty for the differently abled persons:-

Sl. No	Service Name
1.	Application for scholarship
2.	Application for assistive devices
3.	Application for assistance from Government of Tamil Nadu
4.	Application for admission in educational training institutional
5.	Application for loan assistance
6.	Issuance of ID card for differently abled persons
7.	Special education
8.	Maintenance allowance
9.	Marriage assistance
10.	Training and Employment

The online services would be made operational with the help of e-Governance agency of the state shortly.

59. NUTRITION AND CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING SPONSORED BY UNICEF:

Children with disability are often more vulnerable to malnutrition than normal children. This can be due to many reasons including poor access to health facilities and professionals, disability caused inadequate consumption and disability caused digestive disorders. In a family with limited resources, children with disability may get lower priority in health and nutrition than normal children, thereby increasing their susceptibility to malnutrition. Hence, the department with the help of UNICEF has initiated interventions for improving nutrition level in the differently abled children.

Training was given to all the special educators working in the 78 early intervention centers in Tamil Nadu. The training module is focused on the nutrition facts, causes of deficiencies and mitigation strategies. Specific IEC material and training module were developed.

All early intervention centers were tied up with nearby ICDS to ensure Iodine Folic Acid tablets, syrup, vitamin 'A' and De-worming tablets along with take home ration to children, so that nutritional status of these children can be improved substantially. A sum of ₹ 11.41 lakh has been sanctioned by UNICEF for the year 2016-17.

60. INAUGURATION OF OWN BUILDING FOR THE OFFICE OF STATE COMMISSIONER FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED IN CHENNAI :

A new building for the office of State Commissioner for the Differently Abled has been constructed with the total cost of ₹ 3.74 crore. This building has all infrastructural facilities including the features for barrier free movement for differently abled persons constructed in 1035.22 Sq.mtr. It is situated inside the Lady Willington college campus on kamarajar salai, Chennai. The new building is easily accessible for all differently abled persons and is situated at a prominent place.



The 'Best Teacher' – state award is being given by Hon'ble Chief Minister during Independence day on 15.08.2016.



Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes 'Audio Alert' – Receiver (to identify the Bus route) to the visually impaired beneficiary on 6.3.2017.



Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes special wheel chair for the spinal card affected persons on 6.3.2017



Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes Retrofitted Petrol Scooter for the Differently Abled Persons during 6.3.2017



Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates newly constructed building for State Commissionerate for the Differently Abled at Kamarajar Salai, Chennai at the cost of Rs.3.74 crores on 03.05.2017



Newly constructed building for State Commissionerate for the Differently Abled at Kamarajar salai, chennai-5.

CONCLUSION:

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.

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