



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

DEMAND No.52

**POLICY NOTE
2015-2016**

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MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND
NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAMME**

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
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INTRODUCTION

The differently abled persons are amongst the most vulnerable categories of Society. Realizing this, the State Government created a separate Directorate for their welfare in the year 1993. Subsequently, the Government also released a comprehensive State Policy for the differently abled in 1994. The Government of Tamil Nadu have a vision to create a society where differently abled persons are accepted as equal partners.

As per 2011 census, Tamil Nadu has 11.79 Lakhs differently abled persons. They constitute 4.40% of total differently abled population in the country and 1.64% of the total population of the State (7.21 Crores).

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND FULL PARTICIPATION) ACT, 1995

The differently abled persons, whatever be the origin, nature and seriousness of their disability have the same fundamental rights as their fellow citizens, which implies first and foremost the right to enjoy a decent life as normal and full as possible. Accordingly, Tamil Nadu has taken several steps towards implementing the various provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The main aim of the Act is to integrate the differently abled with the mainstream of the society. The State Commissioner for Differently Abled is monitoring the implementation of the various provisions of this Act. Recognising the pioneering initiatives being taken by the State, Tamil Nadu was awarded the “Best State” award in 2013 by the Government of India.

3. THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR THE WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM, CEREBRAL PALSY, MENTAL RETARDATION AND MULTIPLE DISABILITIES ACT 1999.

This Act envisages formation of a Trust, and Local Level Committees to enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently as possible. To achieve this, the Government has been implementing this Act involving a network of voluntary organizations which are working in this field. Local level Committees, have been formed under the chairmanship of District Collector in all the 32 districts. This Committee works to create awareness, appoint legal guardian and sensitize NGOs on the salient features of the Trust. The Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu (SPASTN) is the Nodal Agency for implementing various provisions of the Act in the State.

4. ISSUE OF DISABILITY CERTIFICATES, NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS AND PASS BOOKS

4.(a) PROCEDURE FOR GETTING A DISABILITY CERTIFICATE

The differently abled persons are provided with various types of assistance based on their disability and

age. For this purpose, all the persons are provided Identity cards with disability certificate.

The Government have issued an amendment to the Tamil Nadu Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 2002 in G.O.(Ms.) No. 21, Welfare of Differently Abled Department, dated 17.6.2011 by simplifying and streamlining the procedure, permitting doctors working in the Government Hospitals, Government Primary Health Centres, Government Institutions and Local Hospitals to issue disability certificate to the eligible disabled persons.

The authorized Medical authority to issue different types of disability certificates are as follows:

S. No	Type of disability	“Medical Authority” for the purpose of the issue of disability certificate	Person to issue certificate of disability
1.	Locomotor disability due to amputation or complete permanent paralysis of limbs	Hospitals/Institutions/ Primary Health Centres run by Government/ Local bodies.	Any medical practitioner working in the Hospitals/ Institutions/ Primary Health Centres run by the Government/ Local Bodies

2.	Multiple Disability	District Hospital/ Other Hospitals/ Institutions run by the State Government or Local Bodies having relevant medical specialist and testing facilities	Medical Board consisting of three members of whom one will be a specialist dealing with the relevant disabilities
3.	Disabilities not mentioned at Serial number 1& 2 above	Hospitals/ Primary Health Centres/ Institutions run by Government/ Local Bodies	A specialist dealing with the relevant disability as specified in the table given below:

The Specialist who may issue disability certificate to persons with disabilities mentioned at Serial number 3 above is as follows:

S. No	Category of Disabilities	Specialist
1.	Cerebral Palsy	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation or Orthopaedics or Paediatrician or Paediatric Neurologist or Psychiatrist
2.	Hearing Impairment	Specialist in the field of E.N.T
3.	Leprosy cured person	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation or Orthopaedics or Dermatologist

4.	Locomotor disability other than amputation of complete permanent paralysis of limbs	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of Orthopaedics.
5.	Mental illness	Psychiatrist
6.	Mental Retardation	Children with mental retardation below the age of 12 years - Paediatrician or Paediatric Neurologist or Psychiatrist For adults, above the age group of 12 years- Psychiatrist.
7	Low Vision / Blindness	Specialist in the field of Ophthalmology.
8	Autism	Psychiatrist or Pediatrician or Neurologist

4.(b) ISSUE OF NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD AND PASS BOOK

Top priority is being given to the issue of National Identity Card to all the eligible differently abled persons in the State. Those who have disability certificate with 40% disability and above may approach the respective District Differently Abled Welfare Officer for registration. He in turn will register and issue a National Identity Card with a pass book after affixing

seal in the family card. Those differently abled persons, who have obtained National Identity Cards can register as members in the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for the differently abled persons and avail benefits under various social security and welfare schemes of the Welfare Board.

So far, 11,12,893 (as on 31.03.2015) disability certificates and National identity cards have been issued to the differently abled persons in Tamil Nadu.

5. RECOGNITION AND REGISTRATION OF INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN SERVING THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS.

5.(a) Recognition of Special Schools for differently abled students:

As per the Tamil Nadu Recognized Private Schools Regulation Act, 1973, Special Schools for the differently abled students functioning in the State are given recognition and the recognition is renewed by State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, periodically. As many as 377 Special Schools have been granted recognition so far.

5.(b) Registration of Institutions for Differently Abled Persons:

As per the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, any institution serving the differently abled persons should obtain a Certificate of Registration accorded by the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled. The State Commissioner for the Differently Abled is the only competent authority to accord, renew and revoke the Certificate of Registration. So far, 523 Institutions for differently abled persons have obtained Certificate of Registration.

5.(c) REGISTRATION OF PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION CENTRES

The Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centres for the mentally ill-persons are regulated based on the notification of Tamil Nadu Registration of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centres of Mentally ill persons Rules, 2002. It is mandatory for the centers to get registered as per these rules. Enforcement of these rules prevents any unauthorized establishment of such centres besides monitoring of the authorized centres.

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 fitted with appropriate amplification devices and then receive early intervention, ideally before 6 months of age. Advancement in technology has provided ever-improving opportunities to identify hearing loss in infant soon after birth. Early diagnostic centres have been established for the hearing impaired in 27 districts. Hearing screening with Oto Acoustic Emission (OAE) and Auditory Brain Stem Response (ABR) are done in these centres. A large number of infants have been screened and received treatment at each of these centres.

7. 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 stages of life.

Considering the above facts, Government of Tamil Nadu has established Early Intervention Centres for Children with various types of Disability. All children with disability along with an escort are allowed to travel free of cost in State Transport Corporation buses from their residence to these Centres and back. The honorarium of Special Educators, working in various Early Intervention Centres has been enhanced from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.10,000/- since December 2012.

7.(a) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN

Hearing loss is one of the most common congenital anomaly, occurring in approximately 2-4 infants per 1000. Early detection of hearing loss is critical for the development of age appropriate speech, language and learning skills. Hence, Early Intervention Centres for Infants and Young children with Hearing Impairment have been established with the aim to provide intensive training in such a way that before the child reaches 5 years of age, the child develops

adequate verbal and language skills and is ready to attend regular school in 1st standard. Centres have been established in 30 districts and are managed by the reputed NGOs. Children under the age of 2½ years having hearing loss and without any additional disabilities are admitted in these centres. There is no lower age limit for admission. However, one of the parents is required to attend the centre along with the child.

“DHVANI” syllabus and curriculum developed by Bala Vidyalaya School for the Young Deaf Children, Chennai is followed in these centres. These centres are provided with teaching, learning and play materials for the hearing impaired children. 896 children with hearing impairment in the age group of 0-3 years have been admitted in these centres so far. Every year orientation training is provided to Special Educators working in these centres to update their knowledge and skills. One additional centre has been established in Chennai during the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs.92.71 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

7.(b) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

Early Intervention Centres for Children with Mental Retardation in the age group of 0-6 years have been established in 31 districts through Non Governmental Organisations. These centres aim at training the children, their parents and families to maximise their capabilities in mobility, day-to-day living, socialization and other skills.

“UPANAYAN” a systematic and structured programme for the training of children with delayed development and mental retardation developed by the Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children, Chennai is being followed in these centres. Teaching, learning and play materials are also provided at the Early Intervention Centres for the Mentally Retarded children. The Special educators of these Early Intervention Centres are given refresher course every

year. 1587 Mentally Retarded Children are attending these centres.

A sum of Rs.218.88 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

7.(c) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN

Infants with visual impairments have unique needs which require specific interventions and adaptations in order to access and to understand their world. A baby born blind or visually impaired experiences the world differently. Since 85% of all early learning is visual, a blind or visually impaired child is at a great risk of developmental delays. Effective and intensive intervention is imperative in the early years to enhance available vision and encourage the development of other facilities and skills. In order to address this issue, Early Intervention Centres for Visually Impaired have been established in 9 districts namely Trichy, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Chennai, Salem, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri, and

Nagapattinam, which are managed by reputed NGOs. This scheme benefits 163 Visually Impaired Children below 6 year age group.

A sum of Rs.34.54 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

7.(d) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AT TIRUCHY:

Cerebral Palsy needs to be treated by inter-disciplinary team members such as Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist and Special Educators. At the 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 and 6 years of age. 50 children with Cerebral Palsy attend this centre at Tiruchy.

A sum of Rs.7.02 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

7.(e) EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AT TIRUNELVELI

Highly specialized treatment is required to treat Autism which is primarily a socio-neural developmental disorder. Therapies and behavioral intervention are designed to remedy specific symptoms which can bring about substantial improvement. Early Intervention programmes emphasize attending to social stimuli, imitation skills, language comprehension and usage, appropriate play skills and social intervention. A centre has been established on a pilot basis at Tirunelveli during the year 2013-2014. 25 children have been attending the centre.

A sum of Rs.2.82 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

7.(f) 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 under nutrition in the same way as

children without disabilities, leading to poorer health outcomes, missing or delayed developmental milestones, 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 Centres through the nearby Anganwadi Centres functioning under the Integrated Child Development Services. As many as, 2947 children in 82 Early Intervention Centres are benefited under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.4.15 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme

8. STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE AT CHENNAI

The State Resource cum Training Centre, Chennai, was started in the year 2005, with the aim to provide specialized services and information under one roof to all categories of differently abled persons by Governmental and Non Governmental Organizations.

Disability certificates and National Identity Cards are issued to all categories of differently abled persons at this centre. 14500 disability certificates were issued from the centre during 2014-2015. Early Intervention Centres for the Hearing Impaired, Cerebral Palsy, Visually Impaired, Autism, Mentally Retarded and Sensory Integration Unit are also functioning at this centre. Children with disabilities in the age of below 6 years are admitted in these Early Intervention Centres. Besides, various Training programmes are also organised at this centre.

A sum of Rs.27.27 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

8.(a) REGIONAL STATE RESOURCE CUM TRAINING CENTRE AT TIRUCHY:

In order to cater to the needs of the differently abled persons hailing from the Southern districts, a Regional State Resource cum Training Centre has been established at Tiruchy. This centre is managed jointly by District Differently Abled Welfare Office, Tiruchy and

NGOs. This centre works on the pattern of the Chennai centre.

A sum of Rs.14.31 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

9. HOMES FOR MENTALLY ILL PERSONS

It has been the endeavour of the State Government to protect and maintain the interest of mentally ill persons. The mentally ill persons are to be treated like any other person and the environment around them need be made as normal as possible.

In order to provide shelter, food, medical facilities and rehabilitation services to the Mentally ill persons, 11 homes for the mentally ill have been established through Voluntary Organizations in Thoothukudi, Ramnad, Erode, Thiruchirapalli, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore, Madurai, Coimbatore, Thiruvavarur, Vellore and Salem. As per the announcements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Homes for mentally ill persons have been established in the remaining 21 districts also from

December, 2014. A maximum of 50 mentally ill persons are accommodated in each Home. Totally 1,580 Mentally ill persons were accommodated under this scheme during the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs.286.58 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the Year 2015-16 for this Scheme.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

10.ASSISTANCE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS TO FACILITATE THEIR EDUCATION

The Government has been taking steps to ensure that the persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system. To achieve this goal, special education is being provided to the differently abled students studying in 77 Government and Government Aided Special Schools across the State. This includes 23 Government special schools (10 for Visually Impaired, 11 for Hearing Impaired and 1 for Severely Locomotor Disabled and 1 for Mentally Retarded). 54 Government aided special schools are managed by Non Governmental Organizations.

These 23 Government Special Schools include 5 Higher Secondary Schools – 3 for Visually Impaired at Poonamalle (Boys), Trichy (Girls) and Thanjavur and 2 Schools for Hearing Impaired at Dharmapuri and Thanjavur.

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

Aided Schools are supported with financial assistance by the State Government. During the year 2012-13, the Government have enhanced the feeding grant from Rs.450/- to Rs.650/- per student per month. From 2014-2015, the day scholars are also given Noon -Meal on par with other children .

A sum of Rs.2196.26 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

11. SCHOLARSHIP

The Government provides scholarship to the students depending on their level of education with the prime intention of motivating the students to pursue higher education. The Government have enhanced the scholarship amount with effect from 2013-2014 as follows:-

Sl. No.	Standard	Amount per student per annum
(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/-

A sum of Rs.650.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

12. READERS ALLOWANCE

In order to encourage the learning process for the visually impaired students, Government has been providing Readers' Allowance to the students from 9th Standard upto Post-Graduation level. During the year 2013-14, the Government have doubled the Readers Allowance as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Standard	Readers Allowance per student per annum
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/-

A sum of Rs.101.69 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

13. SCRIBE ASSISTANCE

In order to facilitate the visually impaired students studying from 9th to 12th Standard, to write their examination, a sum of Rs.250/- per examination paper

is provided for the assistants being engaged by the students as Scribes. From 2015-2016 the scribe assistance has been enhanced from Rs.250/- to Rs.300/-. 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, Tiruchirappalli.
- (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 Rs.32.84 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

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

The Tamil Nadu Text Book Corporation is supplying free text-books to the differently abled students studying from 1st to 12th Standard in the Government and Government Aided Special Schools.

A sum of Rs.15.86 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

15. UNIFORM TO THE STUDENTS STUDYING IN GOVERNMENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS

The differently abled students studying in the Government special schools are also provided with four sets of uniform. The number of uniforms has been increased from two sets to four sets from the year 2012-2013. 1387 students were given uniform sets under this scheme in the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs.14.31 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

16. PROVIDING ANGEL PRO DIGITAL DAISY PLAYER-HITECH DEVICE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS.

For the benefit of Visually Impaired students doing higher studies, Angel Pro Digital Daisy Player is provided. 178 students have been provided with this high tech device at a total cost of Rs.12.50 lakhs under the scheme.

17. 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 / Government Aided Special Schools free of cost. As many as 1056 students have received Laptops under the scheme so far.

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

In order to meet the growing educational needs of the visually impaired students, particularly students studying from 10th to 12th Standard at Government Special Schools for the Visually Impaired at

Tiruchirappali, Poonamallee and Thanjavur, lessons in various subjects are provided in DVDs with incidental accessories such as Head Phones and DVD Players. 114 students have been benefitted during the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs. 4.35 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme

19. CASH INCENTIVE SCHEME TO PREVENT DROP OUTS FROM SCHOOLS

Cash Incentives are provided to the differently abled students studying in 10th to 12th Standard in Government and Government-aided special schools, to motivate them to continue their studies and to prevent drop-outs. 1243 students benefitted under this scheme during the year 2014-2015.

Sl. 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/-

A sum of Rs.20.55 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

20. CASH PRIZES TO TOP THREE RANK HOLDERS IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

To encourage the visually impaired and the hearing impaired students studying in 10th and 12th Standard in tamil medium, those securing the top 3 ranks at the State and district level in the Government public examinations are awarded with cash prizes. Since 2012-2013, the cash prizes to first three State rank holders with visual impairment and hearing impairment have been enhanced. Besides, the rank holders are also awarded with a package of cash prizes to pursue higher education, to purchase books and to meet out hostel expenses as detailed below:-

State Level Rank	Visually Impaired		Hearing Impaired	
	10 th Std	12 th Std	10 th Std	12 th Std
I	Rs.25,000/-	Rs.50,000/-	Rs.25,000/-	Rs.50,000/-
II	Rs.20,000/-	Rs.30,000/-	Rs.20,000/-	Rs.30,000/-
III	Rs.15,000/-	Rs.20,000/-	Rs.15,000/-	Rs.20,000/-

District Level Rank				
I	Rs. 6,000/-	Rs. 12,000/-	Rs. 6,000/-	Rs 12,000/-
II	Rs. 4,500/-	Rs. 7,500/-	Rs. 4,500/-	Rs. 7,500/-
III	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 4,500/-	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 4,500/-
Assistance for Higher Education	Visually Impaired		Hearing Impaired	
To pursue higher education	Rs. 1,500/-	Rs. 3,000/-	--	--
To purchase books (Braille Books for Visually Impaired)	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 4,000/-	Rs. 1,000/-	Rs.3,000/-
To meet Hostel expenses	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 1,000/-	Rs.1,000/-

A sum of Rs.79.30 lakhs (Rs.56.31 Lakhs for Visually Impaired + Rs.22.99 lakhs for Hearing Impaired) was spent for both these categories during the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs.130.42 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

21. B.COM., AND B.C.A., COURSES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS

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

A sum of Rs.4.57 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

22. ASSISTANCE TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED LAW GRADUATES

The differently abled law graduates are given financial assistance of Rs.3,000/- each for enrolment in Bar Council as lawyers and for purchase of law books. A maximum of 25 Law graduates are benefitted under this scheme every year.

A sum of Rs.0.45 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

23. SECONDARY GRADE TEACHER TRAINING (DIPLOMA IN TEACHER EDUCATION) TO LOCOMOTOR DISABLED PERSONS

Secondary Grade Teacher Training Course is provided to Locomotor disabled persons at the campus of the Government Higher Secondary School for the Visually Impaired, Poonamallee.

24. SALARY GRANT TO SPECIAL EDUCATORS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED 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 salary grant of Rs.10,000/- each per month for 12 months.

A sum of Rs. 212.40 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

25. TRAINING

25.(a) TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

The Persons with disabilities do experience certain disadvantages in the labour market. To equip them with required skills, following Training Programmes for the differently abled persons are organized by the District Differently Abled Welfare Offices free of cost.

1. The Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology (DMLT) Training for 2 years is conducted through Government Medical Colleges.
2. Computer Training for visually impaired (6 months) by the Regional Centre for National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Poonamallee.

The above mentioned training programmes are given to the orthopaedically handicapped, hearing impaired and visually impaired respectively. A stipend of Rs. 300/- per month per trainee is paid. Tuition fees and training cost are also borne by the Government.

A sum of Rs.24.65 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

25.(b) MULTIMEDIA AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

There is a great demand for the Multimedia trained personnel in the entertainment industry like television broadcasting and advertisement sectors. One month training in Multimedia is provided to 50 locomotor differently abled persons and hearing impaired persons at the Regional Office, National Film Development Corporation Limited, Chennai. On completion of the training, the differently abled persons get placement in entertainment industry. During the year 2014-15, 200 differently abled persons were benefited, under this scheme. Rs. 21.00 lakhs was spent for this scheme.

A sum of Rs.3.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

26. FITTER TRAINING FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS

The hearing impaired persons are imparted training in “Fitter” trade in the special training wing at the Government I.T.I., Guindy. This training is provided for a period of 2 years with a stipend of Rs.300/- per month. 21 differently abled persons are presently undergoing training programme.

A sum of Rs.5.80 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

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

The Government is committed to provide job opportunities to the differently abled persons by ensuring 3 percent job reservation for them in Government Departments/Government Undertakings and other Government Agencies. A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government with Secretaries of various departments as members to oversee the implementation

of 3 percent reservation in all Government Departments / Undertakings / Government Agencies. Follow-up action is being taken on a regular basis.

In the Education Department, with regard to teaching posts 2% vacancies are reserved for the visually impaired persons while 2% vacancies in non-teaching posts are reserved for the hearing impaired persons. 1% of vacancies in both teaching and non-teaching posts are reserved for the orthopedically handicapped.

Orders have also been issued by the Government to carry forward the vacancies earmarked for the differently abled persons which could not be 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 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 been directed to identify suitable posts under Groups “A”, “B”, “C” and “D” categories. In G.O. (Ms.) No.25, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 14.03.2013, orders have been issued identifying 170 posts in Group “A” and “B” categories for the differently abled persons.

Besides in G.O. (Ms.) No.10, Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department, dated 04.03.2014, orders have been issued to fill-up the 1928 backlog vacancies identified in various departments relating to the differently abled persons.

28. MICRO ENTERPRISES AND BUNK STALLS

The differently abled persons who wish to go for self-employment ventures and micro enterprises (like setting up of bunk stall) are assisted in availing loans from the Nationalised Banks. A subsidy of Rs.10,000/- or one third of the loan amount, whichever is less, is also given to the differently abled persons, to install Bunk Stall in public places. 800 differently abled persons have been benefitted under these Schemes and Rs. 80 Lakhs utilized.

A sum of Rs.80.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

29. PRIME-MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME

To provide opportunities of self-employment to the differently abled persons under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Scheme, 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 submit applications to the District Differently Abled Welfare Offices, which are scrutinized and placed before the District Selection Committee headed by the District Collector for the selection of beneficiaries. During the year 2014-2015, 31 Differently Abled persons benefitted at a cost of Rs. 5.00 Lakhs under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.5.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

30. NHFDC ASSISTED SELF-EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

The State Government is also 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 have 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 loan from the Co-operative Banks. The interest component is fully borne by the State Government.

31. UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

To take care of the wellbeing of the unemployed differently abled persons in the age group of 18-40 years, the state government is giving unemployment

allowance based on their educational qualification as indicated below:

Sl. No.	Educational Qualification	Unemployment Allowance per month	Enhanced rate of Unemployment Allowance(vide G.O.Ms.No. 21, WDAP.(DAP.3) Dept., dated 23-3-2015)
1.	Upto 10th std.	Rs.300/-	Rs.600/-
2.	H.S.C.,	Rs.375/-	Rs.750/-
3.	Graduates / Post Graduates	Rs.450/-	Rs.1000/-

To avail the benefit under this scheme, the unemployed differently abled person should have been in the live register of employment exchange for a minimum period of one year. Totally, 22,517 differently abled persons have benefitted during the year 2014-2015 under this scheme. A sum of Rs. 9.96 Crores has been utilized .

A sum of Rs.1107.48 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

32. MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

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

To ensure better care of the differently abled persons, Government enhanced the monthly maintenance allowance has been enhanced from Rs.1000/- to Rs.1500/- during 2014-15.

So far 113002 persons have benefited under this scheme as given below:

S. No	Category of Disability	Criteria – Percentage of Disability	Income ceiling	No of beneficiaries
1	Mentally Retarded persons	45% and above	No	96682
2	Severely Affected persons	75% and above	No	14437
3	Persons Affected with Muscular Dystrophy	40% and above	No	1883
Total No. of beneficiaries				113002

Maintenance Allowance is sent through ECS to bank account of the individual beneficiary directly from the Treasury.

A sum of Rs.20087.00 lakhs and Rs.350.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget estimate for the year 2015-2016 for Mentally Retarded and Severely Affected persons and the Persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy respectively.

b) MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS

The leprosy affected persons are also being given maintenance allowance of Rs.1,000/- per month from since December, 2012. The inmates of the Government Rehabilitation Homes are also eligible to receive this allowance. Since 2014-2015, the allowance is being sent through "ECS" directly from Treasury to the bank account of the beneficiaries. 5280 leprosy affected persons were benefited during the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs.600.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

33. I. AIDS AND APPLIANCES TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

The following aids and appliances are provided to the differently abled persons based on their needs through the District Differently Abled Welfare Offices, to enable them to lead an independent life.

- (a) Tricycles,
- (b) Wheel chairs;
- (c) Goggles;
- (d) Folding sticks;
- (e) Braille Watches;
- (f) Hearing Aids;
- (g) Solar Rechargeable Batteries;
- (h) Calipers;
- (i) Crutches; and
- (j) Artificial limbs

Calipers and Artificial Limbs are designed, fabricated and fitted by orthotic technicians along with the leather workers for each and every individual as per their need at the units of District Differently Abled Welfare Offices.

A sum of Rs.75.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

II. MODULAR AIDS AND APPLIANCES

- (a) Modular Artificial Limbs
- (b) Reflecting Folding Sticks
- (c) Retro-fitted Petrol Scooters;
- (d) Behind the ear hearing aid;
- (e) Modified Cerebral Palsy Wheel Chairs for the persons affected by Cerebral Palsy.
- (f) Magnifier, and
- (g) Energy Storing Carbon Fibre Foot limb for Sports Persons.

(a) SUPPLY OF MODULAR ARTIFICIAL LIMBS FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS.

Artificial limbs are provided to the beneficiaries through the District Differently Abled Welfare Offices. The latest Modular Functional Artificial Limbs (Modular Transtibial Prosthesis/Modular Transfemoral/Modular Below-Elbow) are provided to the amputee individuals free of cost to facilitate their mobility.

A sum of Rs.32.25 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

(b) REFLECTING FOLDING STICKS

Reflecting folding sticks are also provided to the visually impaired persons free of cost. 2,071 Visually impaired persons in all received the benefit during the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs.3.75 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

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

Retrofitted petrol Scooters are distributed to both lower limb affected differently abled students / individuals at free of cost. During the year 2014-2015, 969 Retrofitted petrol scooters were distributed at a cost of Rs. 559.99 lakhs.

A sum of Rs.200.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015 – 2016 for this scheme.

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

As the hearing impaired persons hesitate to wear body level hearing aids in public places, since 2012-2013 “Behind the Ear” model hearing aids are being provided to the hearing impaired students from 6th Standard to College level. Since 2014-2015, employed and self employed are also given Behind the Ear Hearing Aids. 3154 Hearing Impaired persons were benefitted under this scheme during the year 2014-2015.

A sum of Rs.100.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme

(e) MODIFIED SPECIAL WHEEL CHAIR FOR THE PERSONS AFFECTED BY CEREBRAL PALSY

Modified Special Wheel Chairs are distributed to the differently abled persons affected by Cerebral Palsy every year.

During the year 2014-2015 an amount of Rs.36.00 lakhs was sanctioned and 656 Modified C.P.Chairs were distributed to the beneficiaries.

A sum of Rs.36.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme

(f) MAGNIFIERS FOR LOW VISION STUDENTS

The Magnifiers are being provided to low vision students to enable them to study by themselves since the year 2012-13. 118 low vision students received the benefit under this scheme during the year 2014-15 at a cost of Rs. 8.26 lakhs

A sum of Rs.8.50 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

(g) ENERGY STORING CARBON FIBRE FOOT LIMB FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED SPORTS PERSONS:

The State Government while ensuring equal participation of disabled persons in recreational and Sports activities have taken steps to provide energy storing Carbon Fibre Foot limb to the differently abled sports persons who participate at State/National/International level (or) at paralympic events. An amount of Rs.50.00 lakhs was provided during the year 2014-2015.

34. TRAVEL CONCESSION TO THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS IN STATE-OWNED TRANSPORT CORPORATION BUSES

Travel concession is provided to the differently abled persons in the State owned Transport Corporation buses without any income ceiling, as detailed below:

The differently abled students studying in the special schools are permitted to travel free to and from their residence to special school. The Visually Impaired persons are 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 centres and to undertake employment. Besides the visually impaired and orthopedically differently abled persons are permitted to travel to their native places and back within the State once in a year in Express buses.

The Persons with Mental Retardation are permitted to travel along with one escort free of cost. All

categories of differently abled persons can avail 75% concession to travel to any place in the State in all types of buses except air-conditioned bus without any restriction on the number of trips. 75% concession is also given to the escorts who accompany the differently abled persons who cannot travel alone. Besides all 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.

During the year 2014-2015, Rs.2000.00 lakhs was incurred for the scheme.

A sum of Rs.1500.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

35. MOTORISED SEWING MACHINES

The motorised sewing machines are provided to the locomotor differently abled and hearing impaired persons free of cost. In the year 2014-2015, 1,800, motorized sewing machines were distributed for which Rs. 72 Lakhs has been utilized.

A sum of Rs.72.00 Lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for the scheme.

36. MARRIAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Marriage assistance schemes are being implemented with the objective to encourage normal persons to marry the differently abled persons. Marriage assistance includes Rs. 25,000/- and 4 grams of gold coin for making “Thirumangalyam” for the bride. Following are the various categories of marriage assistance being given:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Graduates / Diploma Holders	Others
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-4 Grams	1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams

2.	Assistance to normal person marrying orthopaedically handicapped	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin-4 Grams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams
3.	Assistance to normal person marrying speech and hearing impaired	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams
4.	Assistance to Differently Abled person marrying Differently Abled	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.25,000/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.25,000/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash assistance of Rs.12,500/- 2. National Savings Certificate for Rs.12,500/- 3. Gold Coin- 4 Grams

There is no ceiling on the number of beneficiaries and all the eligible applicants receive the marriage assistance without any omission.

A sum of Rs.366.23 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

37. RESCUE SCHEME

Mentally ill persons left unattended by the family and found wandering in the streets and other public places are rescued and admitted to the hospitals / Rehabilitation homes for the mentally ill. This scheme is being implemented through Non Governmental Organizations. During 2014-15, 500 mentally ill persons were rescued and admitted into Hospitals/ Homes for mentally ill persons.

A sum of Rs.7.50 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the Year 2015-2016 for the scheme.

38. DAY CARE CENTRES FOR PERSONS WITH MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

The Muscular Dystrophy is a genetic disease, which is characterized by progressive weakness of muscles which ultimately cripples the mobility of the individual. This disease needs continuous medical care, Physiotherapy and supportive services. 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 Non Governmental Organisations with Government assistance.

A sum of Rs.92.30 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

39. TAMIL NADU WELFARE BOARD FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

Following Social Security and Welfare schemes for the differently abled persons are being implemented by the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board.

(1)	Personal accident relief:		
	The Compensation provided under the scheme is as follows:		
	(a)	Death	Rs.1,00,000/-
	(b)	Loss of both lower or upper limb or total disfunction 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 from 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 on the natural death of a differently abled person	Rs.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	Rs.1,000/-
		(ii)	if the son or daughter of the applicant had passed the 10th Standard examination	Rs.1,000/-
	(b)	(i)	if the daughter of an applicant is studying in +1 Standard	Rs.1,000/-
	(c)	(i)	if the daughter of the applicant is studying in +2 Standard	Rs.1,500/-
		(ii)	if the son or daughter of the applicant had passed +2	Rs.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)	Rs.1,500/-
		(ii)	If the son or daughter studying in the course and staying in the hostel.	Rs. 1,750/-
		(iii)	If the son or daughter of the applicant studying in regular Post Graduate Course (for every academic year of the course)	Rs. 2,000/-
		(iv)	If the son or daughter studying the course and staying in the hostel	Rs. 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)	Rs. 2,000/-
		(ii)	If the son or daughter studying in the course and staying in the hostel	Rs.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)	Rs. 4,000/-
		(iv)	If the son or daughter studying the course and staying in the hostel	Rs. 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)	Rs. 1,000/-
		(ii)	if the son or daughter studying the course and staying in the hostel	Rs. 1,200/-
5	Assistance for Marriage (any one of the couple is eligible or this assistance)			Rs. 2,000/-
6.	Assistance for delivery or miscarriage of pregnancy for the termination of pregnancy to a differently abled female members			
	(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/-

A differently abled person above 10 years of age can become a member of the Board and avail the above benefits.

A sum of Rs.100.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

40. GOVERNMENT REHABILITATION HOMES

The Government have established 10 Rehabilitation Homes for persons affected with leprosy and found begging in the streets. 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, Kanchipuram 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

Each home is provided with facilities to accommodate a maximum of 400 adults and 25 children. 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 courts.

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.

On special occasions such as Deepavali, Pongal, Republic day, Independence day, Gandhi Jayanthi, Anti Leprosy day and Annual day, special food is supplied to the inmates. Two sets of clothes are distributed every year during Pongal and Deepavali festival. Besides Micro Cellular rubber footwear and mats are supplied every year. Plates and tumblers are supplied once in five years and blankets 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. 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)	Rs.1,000/-
2.	Purchase of spectacles	Rs.5,000/-
3.	Tooth brush and Tooth powder	Rs.2,500/-
4.	Sports materials	Rs.1,200/-
5.	Musical Instruments	Rs.400/-

Further, a sum of Rs.2,000/- is provided to perform the funeral rituals for the deceased inmates.

A sum of Rs.1051.52 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

41. HOMES FOR THE ADULT MENTALLY RETARDED OF ABOVE 14 YEARS

The mentally retarded who are the above the age of 14 are provided with shelter established through Non Governmental Organisations. There are totally 42 homes located all over the state.

The scheme benefits totally 1640 mentally retarded persons. Besides providing shelter and food, vocational training is also imparted to them to enhance their vocational skills.

A sum of Rs.322.92 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

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

The Government is also providing financial assistances to Non Governmental Organisations giving a care and protection to the mentally retarded persons. The assistance includes construction of new building / extension of building / rent payment as per requirement as well as feeding charges for the inmates.

A sum of Rs.364.24 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the Year 2015-2016.

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

Three day-care centres for the mentally retarded are functioning in Theni district, benefiting 90 children. The Non-Governmental Organizations run these centres with the grants-in-aid assistance provided by the Government. Rs.11.64 lakhs has been utilized during the year 2014-2015

A sum of Rs.14.43 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

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

The Government gives salary grant to the special educators and therapists (Physiotherapists/ Occupational Therapist/Speech Therapist) working in the special schools for the mentally retarded being run by the Non Governmental Organisations. The salary

grant was enhanced from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.10,000/- per month from December, 2012 onwards.

A sum of Rs.720.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

45. GOVERNMENT CARE CAMP AT MELPAKKAM

With a view to prevent beggary and to rehabilitate them as a worthful citizens, the Government care camp at Melpakkam was started on in 1954 with a strength of 950 members. 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.

Two towels, two sets of shirts and shorts to the male inmates and two sets of sarees and blouses to the female inmates are supplied once in a year. Apart from this, free dhoties and sarees are supplied during Pongal. Inmates are provided with mats, bed sheets, plates and coconut oil.

A sum of Rs.126.28 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

46. BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

Barrier free environment is essential to ensure better mobility of the differently abled. This enables them to participate in various social, cultural and economic activities in the society. The Development Control Rules (DCR) of the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) has been suitably amended to ensure a barrier free environment for the differently abled persons.

For the provision of barrier free environment for the differently abled persons, Government in G.O. (Ms) No.21, Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MA.1) Department, Dated 01.02.2013 has issued an order for making suitable amendments to the Municipal laws and for framing the "Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Provision of Special Facilities for the Differently Abled Persons in Multi-Storeyed Building and Public Buildings) Rules. As per these rules, provision of ramps,

lifts, hand rails, special toilets and car parking is mandatory in buildings having more than 2 floors. Besides Pedestrians Auditory signals would be fixed at the cost of Rs. 75.00 lakhs.

47. STATE AWARDS

Every year, the State Government honours persons and institutions who are rendering outstanding services for the differently abled persons by presenting State Award on the occasion of Independence Day celebration 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 Rs.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 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

48. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

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 Organisation. This day is observed to raise awareness in society, regarding the needs of persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for their rights. The day is celebrated to also encourage the differently abled persons to show their different skills and abilities in the field of arts and sports. As many as, 5,000 differently abled students from all over the State participate in various events organized on the occasion. Several sports events at the state level are conducted and prizes given to the winners. Cultural programmes are also conducted.

On this occasion, State awards are given 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 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 / Self-employed 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

The aids and appliances to the differently abled persons are also distributed on this occasion. The Government have granted special casual leave for all the differently abled employees in Government Departments / Undertakings to enable them to celebrate the day.

A sum of Rs.20.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015 – 2016 for this scheme.

49 . MOBILE THERAPY UNIT

Mobile Therapy Units have been launched for the welfare of the differently abled children in the age group of 0-6 years in all the 32 districts of Tamil Nadu on 16.06.2015 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. A sum of Rs.4.49 crores has been sanctioned by the Government for this purpose. This initiative is first of its kind in the country which intends to take rehabilitation of the differently abled to their doorsteps.



Need for Mobile Therapy Unit:

The differently abled children in the age group of 0-6 years, specially in rural areas find it difficult to reach the early intervention centres which are located in the district headquarters. In order to help such children, one mobile Therapy Unit each has been set up in all the 32 districts of the State. In each unit all the required therapy equipment are provided and services are rendered at the door steps of the beneficiaries.

Following are the main activities carried out by the Mobile Therapy unit:

- (i) Early diagnosis and identification of different types of differently abled children.
- (ii) Providing physiotherapy, speech therapy, Occupational therapy,
- (iii) Assessment for suitable assistive devices, pre-vocational training and special education for the children

Methodology:

The Mobile Therapy Unit vehicle is released to the District Differently Abled Welfare Officers. District Collectors are guiding and implementing this special programme with the services of the therapist and rehabilitation workers and special educators at the district level.

Totally 14,476 children below the age of 6 years who require immediate intervention have been enumerated in all the 32 districts. These vehicles move to different parts of the district as per an advance tour programme approved by the Collector.

The Tempo Traveller AC Vehicle which is converted into 2 cabins i.e. Therapy Room and the Driver cabin has the following facilities:-

- (i) Therapy Room of the size of 10'X6' is designed in such a way to enable to carry out physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, new born screening, early intervention activities, assessment for assistive devices.

- (ii) Play way therapy for children with different kinds of disability
- (iii) Therapy cabin also has a Testing Couch to enable the therapist to provide therapy as in the Clinical room for the differently abled children.
- (iv) To facilitate IEC activity on prevention of disability, 22 inch LED Television with DVD Players, cordless mike and speakers are flitted in the therapy cabin which is useful for the mothers in getting information on early intervention activities.
- (v) Pamphlets, booklets, display boards, Songs etc. relating to the various welfare scheme being implemented by the State Government are also provided in the mobile unit.

These 32 Mobile Therapy Units launched recently have been widely appreciated by the people.

A sum of Rs.97.01lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2015-2016 for this scheme.

50. CHIEF MINISTER'S HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

The Government have implemented a Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme for the benefit of differently abled person also. Under this scheme, all the differently abled persons and their family members are enrolled without considering any income ceiling.

The basic eligibility criteria for enrolling the families of the differently abled persons are as follows:

- (i) To be a resident of Tamil Nadu – (To prove this, a photocopy of the ration card should be submitted)
- (ii) Any one of the family member should be a differently abled person – (photocopy of National I.D. Card for the differently abled issued by the District Differently Abled Welfare Office should be enclosed)

The 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 Rs.1.00 lakh per year per family along with a provision to pay upto Rs.1.5 lakh per year per family for certain specified treatment.

CONCLUSION

The Government is committed to improving the quality of life of the differently abled. Towards achieving this goal the Government would make continuous effort in preventing disability through various early intervention schemes and also promote social integration by ensuring equal opportunities.

**B. VALARMATHI,
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND
NUTRITIOUS MEAL PROGRAMME**