



**BACKWARD CLASSES, MOST BACKWARD CLASSES
AND MINORITIES WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

MINORITIES WELFARE

**POLICY NOTE
2023 – 2024**

DEMAND No. 9

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**Minister for Minorities Welfare and
Non-Resident Tamils Welfare**

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**Government of Tamil Nadu
2023**

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Introduction

Government of Tamil Nadu is way ahead in protecting and promoting the interest of the minorities of the State. By providing equal opportunity, ensuring their legal rights and bringing inclusive growth among them, this government gives continuous support for socio-economic development of the minorities.

Maintaining communal harmony among various sections of the society is the prime mandate of this Government. For the welfare of Minorities, the Government has taken various steps at different periods. The State Minorities

Commission was set-up in 1989. "Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes Welfare Department" was changed as "Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department" in the year 1999. In the same year, Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation was established and a scheme to sanction annual grant for Repair and Renovation of Waqf Institutions was launched. In the year 2007, a separate 3.5% reservation for Backward Class Muslims was granted. In the same year, Muslim Women Aid societies were formed in all districts and the "Directorate of Minorities Welfare" was also formed. "Ulemas and Employees Welfare Board" was constituted in the year 2009. In the same year, hostels for Muslim girls studying in Schools and Colleges were opened for the first time. An Act was enacted to confer Statutory status to State Minorities Commission in 2010.

To keep up their progress on track, this Government has formulated various welfare schemes and is implementing Government of India schemes as well. Separate Directorate of Minorities welfare, established in 2007 has been mandated to monitor Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme. Justice Rajindar Sachar Committee Recommendations are followed with utmost care for empowerment of minorities. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) Scheme is implemented to provide basic amenities to the Minorities.

Schemes such as Government of India scholarships to minorities students, running of minority hostels are being implemented to facilitate the education of minority community students.

Various welfare assistance are provided to the members of Ulema and Employees Welfare Board. On similar lines, orders have been issued

for establishing Christian Priests and Church Employees Welfare Board in 2022 for the benefit of Church Priests and Employees.

Muslim and Christian Women Aid Societies provide financial assistance to destitute, widows and aged Muslim/Christian women, financial assistance is given to Christians for Jerusalem pilgrimage and Muslims for Haj Pilgrimage. Grant in aids for repair and renovation of mosques and churches and pension are provided to Pesh Imam, Mothinars, Arabic teachers and Mujawars who have served and retired from Tamil Nadu Waqf institutions.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formulated in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Of these, Goal-1 (No Poverty), Goal 4-(Quality Education) and Goal-10 (Reduce inequalities) are directly related to this department. This department will

continuously take efforts to emphasize to achieve these Sustainable Development Goals.

2. SEPARATE RESERVATION FOR BACKWARD CLASS MUSLIMS

A separate reservation of 3.5% has been provided to Backward Class Muslims out of the 30% reservation earmarked for Backward Classes in the year 2007 after considering the representation of Minority Communities for separate reservation. The Government has ordered to follow the carry forward procedure in filling up of posts earmarked for Backward Class Muslims in direct recruitments.

3. SCHOLARSHIPS

*எண்ணென்ப ஏனை எழுத்தென்ப இவ்விரண்டும்
கண்ணென்ப வாழும் உயிர்க்கு - குறள் 392*

The twain that lore of numbers and of letters give, Are eyes,
The wise declare, to all on earth that live. – Kural 392

In order to achieve educational advancement of people belonging to Minority

communities, the Government is effectively implementing the scholarship schemes of Government of India to enable the minority community students belonging to Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain religions to continue their education without interruption. The following 3 scholarship schemes are implemented for Minority students studying from 9th std to Professional / Research level courses in Government / Government aided and Government recognized private educational institutions.

1. Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme
2. Post-matric Scholarship Scheme
3. Merit-cum-means based Scholarship Scheme

This scheme is fully funded by the Government of India and based on the population of minorities in the States as per Census 2011. The scholarship amount is directly credited into students' bank account through Direct Benefit

Transfer (DBT). In which, 30% scholarship is earmarked for girl students of each minority community, a student residing in a particular State will be entitled for scholarship under the quota of that State only irrespective of his/her place of study.

The Details of the Scholarship are as follows:-

Name of the Scholarship	Classes covered	Parent/ Guardian's Annual Income limit	Eligibility criteria
Pre-matric	Std. IX to X	Rs.1.00 lakh	50% marks in the previous year final examination
Post-matric	Std. 11 th to Ph.D.	Rs.2.00 lakh	
Merit-Cum-Means Based	Professional/ Technical Courses	Rs.2.50 Lakh	

3.1 Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme

This scheme was introduced by Government of India in the year 2008-2009 and sanctioned to the minority students studying from 1st standard to 10th standard till 2021-2022. From the year

2022-2023, Government of India discontinued sanction of scholarships to 1st standard to 8th standard minority students and only sanctioning scholarships for 9th standard and 10th standard minority students citing that, Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. This Government is urging the Government of India to put the decision on hold and restore the Pre-matric scholarship scheme to all minority students studying from 1st standard to 8th standard as well.

The number of fresh scholarships for minorities available in a year is fixed and limited. Inter-se selection weightage is given to poverty rather than marks. In case of same income, selection is based on the 'Date of Birth' criteria of applicants.

There is no merit list generation for renewal cases. Renewal applicant will get the scholarship

if one has obtained 50% in his/her previous year's examinations (at the same Institute and in same course). Actual financial assistance will be provided for admission/tuition fee and maintenance allowance is given subject to the maximum ceiling indicated against the item concerned.

Details	Hosteller	Day Scholar
Admission fee from class IX to X	Actual fee paid by the student or maximum Rs.500 per annum. (whichever is less)	
Tuition fee from class IX to X	Actual fee paid by the student or maximum Rs.3,500 per annum. (whichever is less)	
Classes IX to X	Rs.6,000	Rs.1,000

During the year 2022-2023, applications from 1,07,247 students have been received and forwarded to Union Government for sanction.

3.2 Post-matric Scholarship

Post-matric scholarship was introduced by Government of India in the year 2007-2008. This is sanctioned to the minority students pursuing higher secondary education, technical and vocational courses including Polytechnic, Diploma in teacher training, UG and PG level courses, M.Phil and Ph.D., etc.,

The number of fresh scholarships for minorities available in a year is fixed and limited. Inter-se selection weightage is given to poverty rather than marks. In case of same income, selection is based on the 'Date of Birth' criteria of applicants.

There is no merit list generation for renewal cases. Renewal applicant will get the scholarship if one has obtained 50% in his/her previous year's examinations (at the same Institute and in same course).

Actual financial assistance will be provided for admission/tuition fee and maintenance allowance is given subject to the maximum ceiling indicated against the item concerned.

Details of Courses	Admission & Tuition fees Rs.	Maintenance Allowance (for 10 Months per Annum)	
		Hosteller Rs.	Day Scholar Rs.
Classes XI and XII	Actual fee paid by the student or maximum Rs.7,000 per annum (whichever is less)	3,800	2,300
Technical / Vocational Courses for XI & XII level, ITI/ITC (including NCVT Courses) Polytechnic, Diploma in Nursing, Teacher Training etc.	Actual fee paid by the student or maximum Rs.10,000 Per annum (whichever is less)	3,800	2,300
Degree Courses of Under Graduate/Post graduate level (Other than	Actual fee paid by the student or maximum Rs.3,000 Per annum (whichever is less)	5,700	3,000

Technical and Professional courses)			
M. Phil and Ph.D.	-	12,000	5,500

During the year 2022-2023, applications from 99,008 students have been received and forwarded to Union Government for sanction.

3.3 Merit-Cum-Means Based Scholarship Scheme

Merit-cum-Means based scholarship scheme is implemented with a view to encourage the Minority students who have secured higher marks and study Professional/ Technical courses.

This scholarship is sanctioned to the students belonging to religious minorities notified by Government of India i.e., Muslims, Christians, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain communities in the recognized State and Central

Government Institutions. This scheme is implemented from the year 2007-2008

The number of fresh scholarships has been fixed. The applications from Listed Institutions (IIT, IIM, etc,) will be exhausted. Thereafter other students will be selected based on the merit list, i.e. Percentage/ marks of last academic course/board (higher secondary / graduation) exam. In case of similar marks, income will be taken as deciding factor.

There is no merit list generation for renewal cases. Renewal applicant will get the scholarship if one has obtained 50% in his/her previous year's examinations (at the same Institute and in same course).

Full course fee (except refundable fee) is reimbursed to the students studying Professional/Technical Courses in the 85 listed Institutions notified by the Government of India, including

- 1) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai;
- 2) National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirapalli;
- 3) Indian Institute of Information Technology Design & Manufacturing (IIIT&DM) Kancheepuram;
- 4) National Institute of Fashion Technology, Chennai and
- 5) Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Tiruchirapalli.

In respect of other students studying in Government, Government recognized institutions actual financial assistance will be provided for admission and course fee /tuition fee and maintenance allowance is given subject to the maximum ceiling indicated against the item concerned.

Details of Scholarship	Hosteller	Day Scholar
Course Fee	Actual fee paid by the student or maximum Rs.20,000 per annum (whichever is less)	

Maintenance allowances (for 10 months per annum)	Rs.10,000 per annum	Rs.5,000 per annum
Scholarship for Listed Institutions	Full course fee paid by the student is fully reimbursed (without any maximum limit)	

During the year 2022-2023, applications from 10,154 students have been received and forwarded to Union Government for sanction.

3.4 Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Girl Students

The “Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship Scheme” was introduced by the Union Government and is being implemented through the Maulana Azad Educational Trust of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The meritorious students of Minority community are encouraged to pursue higher education under this scheme.

In view of implementing the scheme on par with other Minority Scholarship Schemes, Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship Scheme is

integrated with National Scholarship Portal from 2021-2022 onwards with 100% funding from Government of India.

Girls students who are studying 9th and 10th Standards are sanctioned Rs.5,000 per annum whereas the girls students who are studying 11th and 12th Standards are sanctioned Rs.6,000 per annum and the scholarship amount is directly credited into the students' bank accounts under DBT Scheme. This scholarship includes admission fee, tuition fee, purchase of books, purchase of stationery and boarding and lodging charges.

During the year 2022-2023, applications from 12,119 girl students have been received and forwarded to Union Government of India.

4. MINORITY HOSTELS

In order to facilitate poor Minority students to continue their education, this Government is running 18 minority hostels with free boarding

and lodging facilities. The details of hostels are as follows

Hostel	No. of Hostels	Sanctioned strength	Admitted Strength
College	9	900	688
School cum College	5	250	207
School	4	350	203
Total	18	1,500	1,098

Out of these 18 hostels, one is boys hostel and 17 are girls hostels. In the year 2021-2022, parental annual income ceiling for hostel admission has been enhanced from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2 lakh.

District Collectors have been empowered to sanction 10% additional strength to the needy hostels. Apart from this, 5 additional seats are allotted in each hostel to accommodate children of Sri Lankan Tamils who reside in camps.

In each hostel 4% seats are allotted to differently abled students. Children who are rescued from child labour practices are admitted in the hostels even during the middle of an academic year.

Children of plantation workers having nativity in Tamil Nadu but working in plantations along the Kerala border adjacent to Theni district have been exempted from producing community and income certificate for admission in the hostels situated in Theni district. They are admitted to the hostels on the basis of self-declaration by the parents.

In the year 2021-2022, Personality development and Spoken English training was imparted to the inmates of 14 college hostel boarders through Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission.

4.1 Food charges

The Government is sanctioning food charges for hostel boarders at the rate of Rs.1,000 for school students and Rs.1,100 for college students for 10 months in a year. Menu for the school and college hostels has been revised and the revised menu has come in to force from 03.06.2022.

From the year 2021-2022 onwards, the Government is sanctioning Rs.40 per student for school students and Rs.80 per student for college students for providing special food during festivals (Christmas, Ramzan, Bakrid, Mahaveer Jayanthi and Buddha Poornima)

Miscellaneous charges of Rs.100 per month for school students and Rs.150 per month for college students are sanctioned to boarders for purchase of soap, toothpaste, etc. This amount is directly credited into the student's bank account through ECS.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.409.40 lakh has been spent towards food charges, administration, maintenance and other expenses for running these hostels.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.459.46 lakh has been allotted towards running of these hostels.

4.2 Benefits provided to hostel boarders

1. Four sets of uniforms are provided to the hostel boarders studying from 4th to 10th Standard as per the colour and pattern adopted under Noon Meal Scheme.
2. The boarders of hostels studying up to 12th Standard are supplied with the textbooks free of cost by the Department of School Education.
3. Special Guides are provided free of cost to the boarders studying in 10th and 12th Standard to improve their performance in Public Examinations.
4. One English and two Tamil dailies are supplied to each hostel.

5. Libraries in the name of "Semmozhi Noolagam" have been setup in 14 college hostels at a cost of Rs.14 lakh.
6. e-Libraries have been set up in 14 College hostels, at a cost of Rs.10.85 lakh
7. Career guidance programmes are conducted for creating awareness among hostel boarders studying in standard 10th, 12th and colleges to aid in their preparation for competitive examinations.
8. Medical checkups are conducted three times a year for all hostel boarders.
9. Mats, jamakkalam, bedsheets, stainless steel plates and tumblers, etc., are provided to all hostel boarders.
10. Woollen sweaters are provided to the boarders in hill stations.
11. Annually Rs.50,000 is sanctioned to each hostel to carry out emergency repair works.
12. Library books, bookshelves, play materials, colour television, wet

grinder, mixer, water purifier, napkin incinerator, fire extinguishers, idly steamers and electric insect destroyer are supplied to both school and college hostels. In addition, two tier bunk cots, inverter, reference books, instant wet grinder and steam boiler are supplied to college hostels.

13. Sundal and Chukkumalli coffee/ tea are provided to the hostel boarders every evening.
14. 20 eggs are provided to each boarder per month. Bananas are given to the boarders who do not take eggs.
15. Mutton and chicken are provided on the first and third Wednesday and second and fourth Wednesday respectively every month.

4.3 Construction of own building for hostels

Out of 18 Minority hostels functioning under this department, 11 hostels are functioning in own buildings. Orders were issued for construction of own buildings to 2 hostels. Based

on the student strength, own buildings will be constructed to the remaining 5 hostels.

4.4 Maintenance of Hostel building

Maintenance works in hostels functioning in Government buildings are taken up through Public Works Department. During the year 2022-2023, maintenance and repair works were carried out in 5 hostels at a cost of Rs.8 lakh through Public Works Department.

5. MUSLIM WOMEN AID SOCIETY

To help the destitute Muslim widows by paying monthly allowances, a society was started in Chennai in the name "Mohammadan Gosha Widows Aid Charity" on 01.10.1892 by the Nawab of Carnatic. Subsequently, the name was changed into "Muslim Women Aid Society". This Society was registered under the Societies Registration Act on 12.08.1976. This society is

functioning under the chairmanship of District Collector, Chennai.

Muslim Women Aid societies have been formed in all the Districts of the State in the year 2007. Now, all 38 districts have one Muslim Women Aid society each. In addition 3 Muslim women aid societies were formed additionally in Theni, Krishnagiri and Villupuram Districts in the year 2022-2023. Thus now, 41 Muslim Women Aid societies are functioning in the state. Seed money of Rs.1 lakh has been provided to each society.

Skill oriented Training in the field of tailoring, embroidery, shoemaking, handicraft and other need-based training is given free of cost. Financial assistance is provided to destitute widows and aged Muslim women through funds available with the societies. Twice the amount of donation collected by these societies are sanctioned as Government grant to each society

up to a maximum of Rs.20 lakh per annum, per society.

In the year 2022-2023, Muslim Women Aid Society functioning in Chennai district is brought under the control of Directorate of Minorities Welfare.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.249.13 lakh has been sanctioned to these societies as matching grant.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.433.11 lakh has been allotted for the scheme.

6. CHRISTIAN WOMEN AID SOCIETY

Christian Women Aid Societies have been formed in all 38 districts. In addition 3 Christian women aid societies were formed additionally in Karur, Madurai and Theni Districts in the year 2022-2023. Thus now, 41 Christian Women Aid societies are functioning in the state. Seed money of Rs.1 lakh has been provided to each society.

Skill oriented Training in the field of tailoring, embroidery, shoemaking, handicraft and other need-based training is given free of cost. Financial assistance is given to destitute widows and aged Christian women through funds available with the societies. Twice the amount of donation collected by these societies are sanctioned as Government grant to each society up to a maximum of Rs.20 lakh per annum, per society. These societies are registered under the Societies Registration Act.

During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.162.57 lakh has been sanctioned to these societies as matching grant.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.297.54 lakh has been allotted for the scheme.

7.ULEMAS AND EMPLOYEES WELFARE BOARD

For the educational and economic upliftment of the Aalims, Pesh-Imams, Arabic

Teachers, Mothinars, Bilal and other employees working in Mosques and Madarasas and Mujawars and other employees working in Darghas, Ashurkhanas, Burial grounds, Thaikas, Muslim orphanages, Ulemas and Employees Welfare Board was constituted in the year 2009. The Persons who have completed 18 years and not exceeding 60 years of age are eligible to get registered as members in the Board. The members enrolled in this Board are sanctioned various welfare assistances like accident relief, educational assistance, marriage assistance, maternity assistance, old-age pension as in the case of members of the Welfare Boards for unorganized labourers, functioning under the administrative control of Labour and Skill Development Department.

There are 15,327 registered members in the board including 1,364 members newly registered in the year 2022-2023. During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.14.84 lakh has been

disbursed as welfare assistance to 153 registered members of the board.

The details of financial assistance provided to the members enrolled in Ulemas and other Employees Welfare Board

Sl. No	Details of Assistance	Financial Assistance (Rs.)
1	Accidental Insurance	
	a) Fatal due to accident	1,00,000
	b) Disability due to accident (with reference to percentage of Disability)	10,000 to 1,00,000
2	Natural Death	20,000
3	Funeral Expenses	5,000
4	Scholarship	
	a) Girl student studying in X Std.	1,000
	b) student passed in X Std.	1,000
	c) Girl student studying in XI Std.	1,000
	d) Girl student studying in XII Std.	1,500
	e) Student passed in XII std.	1,500
	f) Student studying Degree Courses (Day Scholar)	1,500
	g) Student studying Degree Courses (Hosteller)	1,750
	h) Student studying Post Graduate Courses	4,000

	(Day Scholar)	
	i) Student studying Post Graduate Courses (Hosteller)	5,000
	j) Student studying Under Graduate Professional courses (Day Scholar)	4,000
	k) Student studying Under Graduate Professional courses (Hosteller)	6,000
	l) Student studying Post Graduate Professional courses (DayScholar)	6,000
	m) Student studying in Post Graduate Professional courses (Hosteller)	8,000
	n) Student studying in ITI/Polytechnic	1,000
	o) Student studying in ITI/Polytechnic (Hosteller)	1,200
5	Marriage assistance Male Female	3,000 5,000
6	Maternity Assistance	
	a) Pregnancy period : Rs.1,000 per month for six months	6,000
	b) Abortion	3,000
7	Reimbursement for the cost of Spectacle	500 (Max.)
8	Old Age Pension	1,000 per month

So far, a sum of Rs.195.76 lakh has been disbursed as welfare assistance to 4,632 registered members of the board.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.51.54 lakh has been allotted for the board.

7.1 Supply of bicycles to members of Ulemas and other Employees Welfare Board

During the year 2022-2023, under the scheme, bicycles have been procured and distributed to 10,583 members of the Ulema Welfare Board at a cost of Rs.543.64 lakh.

7.2 Grant for purchase of Two wheelers for Ulemas working in Registered Waqf Institutions.

Orders have been issued to grant Rs.25,000 or 50% of the cost of the vehicle whichever is less to the Ulemas working in the registered Waqf institutions for the purchase of new two wheeler. A sum of Rs.703.50 lakh has been

provided for the scheme, so far 66 members benefitted.

8. INCENTIVE FOR RURAL MINORITY GIRLS STUDENTS

In order to encourage education among rural girl children and to reduce the dropout of minority girl children at primary education level, the scheme of rural Girl Incentive for Minority girls students has been launched in the year 2022-2023. The Government is granting financial assistance to the minority girls students studying from 3rd to 5th standard in rural areas at the rate of Rs.500 per annum and Rs 1,000 per annum for the student studying in 6th standard.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.275.60 lakh has been provided for implementation of this scheme.

9. SUPPLY OF MOTORIZED SEWING MACHINES TO MINORITIES

For the benefit of economically backward minorities people, orders were issued to procure

1,000 numbers of Motorized sewing machines at a cost of Rs.61.60 lakh and sewing machines have been distributed for the first time to the minority community beneficiaries.

10. ESTABLISHMENT OF 5 DISTRICT MINORITY WELFARE OFFICES

Minority welfare offices were established at a cost of Rs.175.05 lakh along with new posts in 5 minority concentrated districts namely Chennai, Vellore, Villupuram, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore and offices have started functioning.

11. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR JERUSALEM PILGRIMAGE

Under the scheme, the Government provides financial assistance for Jerusalem Pilgrimage by all sects of Christians in Tamil Nadu. The total number of pilgrims per year is 600. Of this, 50 seats are earmarked for Nuns/Sisters. A sum of Rs.60,000 is sanctioned as financial assistance for

Nuns/Sisters and Rs.37,000 to other pilgrims. Under this scheme, so far, 4,128 Christians have performed this pilgrimage by availing financial assistance of Rs.825.60 lakh.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.233.50 lakh has been allotted for the scheme.

12. GRANT IN AID FOR REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF CHURCHES

Under the scheme, the Government provides financial assistance for repair and renovation of Christian churches in Tamil Nadu.

The grant provided for repair and renovation of Churches has been enhanced from Rs.6 crore to Rs.10 crore. Many heritage shrines including St. George Church, Madurai, Schwartz Church, Thanjavur and Christ Church, Salem will be taken up for renovation.

A sum of Rs.77.90 lakh has been sanctioned for repair and renovation of 30 churches in 19 districts.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.1,000 lakh has been allotted for the scheme.

13. SETTING UP OF KABARSTAN AND BURIAL GROUND

Considering the requests of Muslims and Christian communities, a new scheme for acquiring lands for setting up of Kabarstan and Burial ground is introduced. The Government has accorded administrative sanction of Rs.100 lakh for this scheme.

14. CHRISTIAN PRIESTS AND CHURCH EMPLOYEES WELFARE BOARD

Orders have been issued for establishing Christian Priests and Church Employees Welfare Board. Detailed guidelines have been issued on 18.01.2023 to register members and to avail various welfare assistance.

15. REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

A Rehabilitation assistance scheme is being implemented to give a rejuvenated life to the minority families who were affected physically and financially and lost their livelihood due to communal riots. Under this scheme, financial assistance are also provided to the discharged prisoners of petty offences to lead a decent life in society. Financial assistance up to Rs.10,000 per family is given to set up petty trades. So far, Rs.1.40 lakh has been given to 14 discharged prisoners of petty offences.

16. PRIME MINISTER'S NEW 15 POINT PROGRAMME

To ensure an equitable share and extended the benefits to Minorities in proportion to their population under various schemes, Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme is being implemented in Tamil Nadu.

The important objectives of this scheme are providing facilities to education, access to credit, housing facilities, employment generation and maintain communal harmony.

To monitor and review the schemes of new 15 point programme implemented by various departments, a State level committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary and District level committee under the chairmanship of District Collector have been constituted.

16.1 Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme

1. Equitable availability of ICDS Services;
2. Improving access to School Education;

3. Greater resources for teaching Urdu;
4. Modernizing Madarsa Education;
5. Scholarship for meritorious students from minority communities;
6. Improving educational infrastructure through Maulana Azad Education Foundation;
7. Self-employment and wage employment for the poor;
8. Upgradation of skills through technical training;
9. Enhanced credit support for Economic activities;
10. Recruitment to State and Central services;
11. Equitable share in rural housing scheme;
12. Improvement in condition of slums inhabited by minority communities;
13. Prevention of communal incidents;
14. Prosecution for communal offences; and,
15. Rehabilitation of victims of communal riots.

17. PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKRAM (PMJVK)

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) aims to improve socio-economic conditions of the communities living in the areas through community infrastructure development to support Minorities by providing basic amenities to them for improving the quality of life of the people and reducing imbalances and development deficit in the identified Minority Concentrated Areas.

Projects under the scheme are related to creation of infrastructure mainly in the sectors of education, health and skill development. Earlier, the scheme is implemented in the Minority concentrated areas (25% of Minority Population in the area) which have been identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs based on census 2011.

As per the revised guidelines, PMJVK will be implemented in all the Districts of Tamil Nadu. The projects under PMJVK, will be proposed in

any area where the concentration of minority population is more than 25% in the catchment area (15 km radius).

This scheme is being implemented by Central and State Government with financial allocation in the ratio of 60:40. Further 80% of the resources under this programme would be utilized for projects related to education, health and skill development of which atleast 33-40% will be earmarked for creation of assets/facilities for women/girls. Among the other admissible projects under this scheme, infrastructures like Construction of Sadbhav Mandap, Residential School, Smart Class facility, Construction of additional classrooms in existing Government ITIs/Polytechnics, Construction of Higher Secondary Schools, Polytechnics, Construction of working women hostels, Construction of Hostels in State/Central Government Universities and establishing coaching classes within the premises of Universities, Providing Computers with internet

facilities to Government recognized Madrasa Schools, etc., and various infrastructural facilities recognized by Ministry of Minority Affairs will be provided in the selected Minority Concentrated Areas.

During the year 2021-2022, approval has been accorded for implementing 62 projects in ten districts of Tamil Nadu at an estimate cost of Rs.61,575.41 lakh in which central share of Rs.18,422.22 lakh and state share of Rs.12,281.48 lakh totally Rs.30,703.70 lakh has been released as 1st instalment in the year 2022-2023.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.30,703.72 lakh has been allotted for the scheme.

18. MINORITY STATUS TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Orders have been issued for conferring of Minority status to Educational Institutions through this department and action is being taken to

create separate web portal to implement the scheme through online. The Directorate of Minorities welfare has been made Nodal department for applying for minority status application.

19. TAMIL NADU STATE MINORITIES COMMISSION

The Tamil Nadu State Minorities Commission is a statutory body, constituted for safeguarding the rights and interests of religious and linguistic minorities.

The commission is undertaking the functions like examination and monitoring the working of various safeguards provided in the constitution of India and the laws enacted by the State Government for the protection of minorities, making appropriate suggestions to the State Government regarding proposed legislations and welfare schemes to be undertaken in respect of minorities and also making recommendations

for ensuring, maintaining and promoting communal harmony in the State.

The Commission has been reconstituted for a period of 3 years with effect from 28.06.2021. The Commission is functioning with Chairman, Thiru S. Peter Alphonse, Vice chairman, Thiru M.M. Abdul Khuddhus and 8 members.

This Commission visits various districts of the State in order to identify the grievances of the minorities and forward it's recommendation to the Government for effective implementation of the welfare schemes for minorities. The Commission enquire the requests received from minority people and institutions by calling them in person if needed and forward the requests to concerned departments and receive reports from the departments.

In the year 2022, "Minorities Rights Day" was celebrated at state level on 18th December at Madurai.

20. TAMIL NADU MINORITIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TAMCO)

The Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation (TAMCO) was established in 1999 under the Companies Act 1956. This Corporation provides loan for the benefit of Minorities viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains in Tamil Nadu at a lower rate of interest to start viable trade / business. This Corporation is acting as State Channelising Agency of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), Delhi. TAMCO is lending Term Loan, Micro Credit Loan and Education Loan for economic advancement of Minorities. The authorized Share Capital of this Corporation is Rs.5 crore and a paid up Share Capital is Rs.2.05 crore. The Corporation obtains loan from NMDFC upon guarantee given by State Government for funding various loan schemes of NMDFC. Earlier, the State Government guarantee was issued for the

period of one year. Now during the year 2022-2023, the Government of Tamil Nadu has issued orders for sanctioning Government guarantee for the period of 3 years from 2022-2023 to 2024-2025 so as to ensure the Corporation to obtain loan from NMDFC in time. This will facilitate better progress under various schemes.

Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation Ltd sanctions and disburses loans to beneficiaries through Central Co-operative Banks/Urban Co-operative banks/ Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies.

The funding pattern of Term Loan, VIRASAT Loan, Micro Financing and Educational Loan are as follows:

NMDFC Share	:	90%
TAMCO Share:		5%
Beneficiary Share	:	5%

20.1 Individual Term Loan Scheme

With a view to promote self employment generation, Individual term loans are provided by Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation for economically poorer section of Minorities for carrying out business/trade as detailed below:

Sl. No	Loan Amount	Interest Rate (per annum)	Annual Income Ceiling
1	Credit line I Scheme Upto Rs.20 lakh	6%	Rural Areas Rs.98,000 Urban Areas Rs.1.20 lakh
2	Credit line II Scheme Upto Rs.30 lakh	Male 8% Female 6%	Persons who cannot avail benefit under credit line-I and having annual income upto Rs.8 lakh (For both Rural and Urban Areas)

During the year 2022-2023, loan amount of Rs.2,455.50 lakh has been disbursed to 3,413 beneficiaries under this scheme.

20.2. VIRASAT Scheme

VIRASAT - A credit scheme for craft person as a component of Term loan has been launched with the objective to meet credit requirement of the artisan towards capital investment for purchase of equipments/tools/machineries. The details of the scheme are as follows:

Sl. No	Loan Amount	Interest Rate (per annum)	Annual Income Ceiling
1	Credit line I Upto Rs.10 lakh	5% for Male 4% for Female	Rural Areas Rs.98,000 Urban Areas Rs.1.20 lakh
2	Credit line II Scheme Upto Rs.10 lakh	6% for male 5% for Female	Persons who cannot avail benefit under credit line-I and having annual income upto Rs.8 lakh (For both Rural and Urban Areas)

20.3 Micro - Financing through Self-Help Groups

Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation is providing Loan assistance under Micro-Finance to the members of Minority Self Help Groups(both Men and Women self help groups) to take up various small trades like sweet stall, footwear, Tiffin shop, textile business, manufacturing of pickles, snacks, appalam, basket weaving etc., as detailed below.

Sl. No	Loan Amount	Interest Rate (per annum)	Annual Income Ceiling
1	Credit line I Scheme Upto Rs.1 lakh (per member of SHG)	7%	Rural Areas Rs.98,000 Urban Areas Rs.1.20 lakh
2	Credit line II Scheme Upto Rs.1.50 lakh (per member of SHG)	Male 10% Female 8%	Persons who cannot avail benefit under credit line -I and having annual income upto Rs.8 lakh (For both Rural and Urban Areas)

Under this scheme Rs.3,057.35 lakh has been disbursed to 5,358 beneficiaries through Self Help Groups during the year 2022-2023.

20.4 Educational Loan

Educational Loan is sanctioned to the Minorities who pursue Professional Courses and Job Oriented degree courses in the Government/Private Institutions recognized by the Government as detailed below.

Sl. No	Loan Amount	Interest Rate (per annum)	Parental Annual Income Ceiling
1	<p>Credit line I Scheme Upto Rs.20 Lakh for professional job oriented degree courses in India with a maximum duration of 5 years @ Rs.4 lakh per annum.</p> <p>Upto Rs.30 lakh for Courses Abroad with a maximum duration of 5 years @ Rs.6 lakh per annum.</p>	3%	Rural Areas Rs.98,000 Urban Areas Rs.1.20 lakh

2	<p>Credit line II Scheme</p> <p>Upto Rs.20 lakh for courses in India with a maximum duration of 5 years @ Rs.4 lakhs per annum.</p> <p>Upto Rs.30 lakh for Courses Abroad with a maximum duration of 5 years @ Rs.6 lakh per annum.</p>	<p>Male Students 8%</p> <p>Female Students 5%</p>	<p>Persons who cannot avail benefit under credit line -I and having annual income upto Rs.8 lakh (For both Rural and Urban Areas)</p>
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Under this scheme Rs.15.21 lakh has been disbursed to 14 students during the year 2022-2023.

During the year 2022-2023 a total loan amount of Rs.5,528.06 lakh has been disbursed under various schemes to 8,785 beneficiaries by this Corporation.

21. TAMIL NADU LINGUISTIC MINORITIES SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TALMEDCO)

In order to ensure better access to various schemes and promote their economic and social

interests of Linguistic Minorities in Tamil Nadu, the Government have formed Tamil Nadu Linguistic Minorities Social and Economic Development Corporation (TALMEDCO). The authorised capital of the Corporation is Rs.900 lakh.

Under Clause (d) of section 2 of the Tamil Nadu State Minorities Commission Act 2010 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 2010) Government has notified that the persons belonging to the Minority communities who are natives of Tamil Nadu and having viz Telugu, Urdu , Kannada , Malayalam Sourashtra and Marathi as their mother tongue as “Linguistic Minorities”

Government have accorded financial sanction for paid up share capital of Rs.500 lakh, seed fund Rs.1,000 lakh and a sum of Rs.109.20 lakh for salaries and other administrative expenses totalling to Rs.1,609.20 lakh.

22. TAMIL NADU WAQF BOARD

In accordance with Central Waqf Act 1954, the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board was constituted on 18.01.1958 to maintain waqf properties and to administer the works relating to waqf. The Board is constituted once in 5 years as per Waqf Act, 1995 (Central Act 43/1995) and the present Board is functioning with 9 members. Thiru M.Abdul Rahman has been elected as Chairman of the board by the Members of the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board on 22.07.2021. The Tamil Nadu Waqf Board having its head office at Chennai is functioning with 11 Zonal offices.

22.1 Mission and Functions of the Board

Main function of the Waqf Board is Protection, Retrieval and Monitoring and development of Waqf institution under the provision of the Waqf Act, 1995.

- a) To maintain a record containing information relating to the origin, income, object and beneficiaries of every Waqf.
- b) To ensure that the income and other properties of the Waqfs are applied to the objects and for the purposes for which such Waqfs were created or intended.
- c) To give directions for the administration of the Waqf.
- d) To settle scheme of management for Waqfs.
- e) To scrutinize and approve the Budget submitted by Muthawallis and to arrange for the auditing of the accounts of the Waqfs.
- f) To appoint and remove Muthawallis in accordance with the provisions of the Waqf Act.
- g) To take measures for the recovery of the lost properties of Waqfs.

- h) To institute and defend suits and proceedings in a Court of law relating to Waqfs, and their properties.
- i) To administer the Waqf fund.
- j) To call for such returns, statistics, accounts and other information from the Muthawallis with respect to the Waqf properties as the Board may require from time to time.
- k) To inspect or cause inspection of Waqf properties, accounts or records or deeds and documents relating thereto;
- l) To investigate and determine the nature and extent of Waqfs and Waqf properties and to cause, whenever necessary, survey of Waqf properties;
- m) To do generally all such acts as may be necessary for the due control, maintenance and administration of Waqfs.

Apart from this, various schemes are being implemented by the Board for the needy Waqf

institutions such as Renovation scheme for the repair and renovation of Waqf properties, Scheme for construction of compound wall / barbed wire fencing around Burial Ground, Ulema pension Scheme, Payment of maintenance to Muslim women as per the orders of the Court. M.S.S. Waqf Board College, Madurai is also monitored and supervised by this board .

22.2 Registration of Waqf Institutions

There are 6,628 Waqf Institutions under the supervisory control of Tamil Nadu Waqf Board. Out of which, 3,215 have been registered Waqfs in which 213 waqfs have been registered during the year 2022-2023 and 3,413 are unregistered waqfs.

22.3 Survey of Waqf Properties

Under section 4 of the Waqf Act 1995, the Government have appointed the Commissioner of Survey as Survey Commissioner of Waqfs for the

purpose of survey of the Waqfs existing in the State. District Revenue Officers were appointed as Additional Survey Commissioner of Waqfs and Tahsildars in the State have been designated as Assistant Commissioner of Waqfs.

As per the direction of the Government, District-wise particulars of Waqf properties have been extracted from the original registers of the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board already prepared as per the provisions of Waqf Act, 1954 and handed over to all the District Revenue Officers in the State. As per the details submitted, the survey of Waqf properties is in progress.

22.4 Protection of Waqf Properties

There are 6,628 Waqf Institutions having 63,322 waqf properties in the State of Tamil Nadu. Some of the Waqf properties are under encroachment and illegal alienation. Further

certain Waqf properties though under the Waqf Institutions, the patta to such waqf properties also stands in the name of third parties.

In order to protect and safeguard the Waqf properties from illegal alienation and to legally restore all these in the name of waqf institutions concerned, the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board is making efforts to upload the Waqf Board database in Tamil Nilam Software on a separate notation so as to match with current revenue records and to reconcile it. The Government is facilitating by providing necessary support.

22.5 Constitution of Waqf Tribunal

As per section 83 of the Waqf Act, 1995 for determination of any disputes relating to Waqf or Waqf properties, the Government of Tamil Nadu constituted Tamil Nadu Waqf Tribunal in the year 2018 at Chennai. The Tribunal consists of District Judge as Chairman, an officer from the State Civil

Services equivalent in rank to that of the Additional District Magistrate as one Member and one person having knowledge of Muslim Law and Jurisprudence as another Member.

The details of the cases at the Tribunal are as follows:-

Cases pending as on 31.03.2022	Cases registered during 2022-2023	Total	Cases disposed during 2022-2023	Pending
2,300	260	2,560	428	2,132

22.6 Waqfs Under Direct Management of Tamil Nadu Waqf Board

Some of the waqfs are taken under direct management of Tamil Nadu Waqf Board under section 65 of the Waqf Act, 1995 due to administrative reasons and Executive Officers are being appointed to administer the waqfs under direct management. At the commencement of the 2022-2023, 55 Waqf Institutions were under direct management of Tamil Nadu Waqf Board.

During the year 2022-2023, direct management was withdrawn for 14 Waqfs and handed over to the Waqf Institutions by the Board. Further 15 new Waqf institutions were brought under direct management during the year 2022-2023. Therefore, at present, 56 waqf institutions are under direct management of Tamil Nadu Waqf Board.

22.7 Retrieval of Waqf Properties from Encroachments

Action is being taken for retrieval of waqf properties under section 54 of the Waqf Act, 1995 and Tamil Nadu Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1975. The Tamil Nadu Waqf Board has retrieved properties worth about around Rs.52 Crore during the year 2022-2023 and handed over to the concerned Waqf Institutions.

22.8 Administrative Grant Sanctioned to Tamil Nadu Waqf Board

The State Government sanctions Administrative Grant of Rs.2.5 Crores to Tamil Nadu Waqf Board every year. Orders were issued for sanction of incentive at the rate of 5% as additional administrative grant based on the contribution collected by the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board from the year 2022-2023 onwards.

22.9 Construction of Zonal Offices - Grants sanctioned to Tamil Nadu Waqf Board

Construction of own building for 8 Zonal Offices of Tamil Nadu Waqf Board at Poonamallee, Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Salem was announced at an estimated cost of Rs.16 lakhs for each zonal office building. At the first instance the Government has sanctioned and released grant of Rs.64 lakh for construction of 4

Zonal Offices at Poonamallee, Vellore, Ramanathapuram and Cuddalore. Construction of zonal office at Cuddalore is completed and remaining works are under progress.

22.10 Maintenance of Payments to Divorced Muslim Women

As per section 77(4)(g) of the Waqf Act 1995 and the section 4(2) of the Muslim Women (Protection of rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 maintenance amount is paid to divorced Muslim Women by the Tamil Nadu Waqf Board as per the orders of the Court.

22.11 Government Schemes Implemented by Tamil Nadu Waqf Board

22.11.1 Major Repair and Renovation Grant

Annually, the Government sanctions a grant for renovation and repair of Mosques, Dargahs and other waqf institutions as Major Renovation Grant. This scheme was introduced in 1999. The

annual grant sanctioned by the Government has been enhanced to Rs.6 crore in the year 2021-2022 and 77 waqf institutions are benefitted. As per the announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister this grant amount has been substantially enhanced to Rs.10 crore from the year 2023-2024.

22.11.2 Corpus Fund for Repair and Renovation of Waqf Institutions

A corpus fund of Rs.3 Crore has been created to carry out major repair and renovation work in Waqf Institutions like Mosques and Dargahs. The interest accrued on this fund will be utilized by Tamil Nadu Waqf Board for sanctioning to the needy and eligible Waqf Institutions.

22.11.3 Ulema Pension Scheme

Ulema Pension Scheme is being effectively implemented since 1981. Under the scheme poor Pesh Imams, Mothinars, Arabic Teachers, Mujawars who have served and retired after rendering service in Tamil Nadu Waqf institutions are paid ulema pension. Under the scheme those who have attained 60 years of age and completed 20 years of service and 50 years of age and 10 years of service for differently abled are eligible for the pension. Further, this Government has relaxed the age limit from 50 years to 40 years for differently abled ulemas with effect from 15.06.2022. Ulema Pension was periodically enhanced and at present the Ulema Pension of Rs.3,000 per month is being paid to the Ulemas. The Ulema Pension Sanction Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Minorities

Welfare is the sanctioning authority for payment of Ulema Pension. At present, Ulema pensions are sanctioned to 1,399 Ulemas. Out of which, 153 Ulemas were sanctioned pension by this Committee during the last two years.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.540 lakh has been allotted for the scheme.

22.11.4 Ulema Family Pension Scheme

This Government has launched a new scheme namely Ulema Family Pension scheme. Under the scheme, sanctioning of 50% of the Ulema Pension amount lastly drawn as a Ulema Family Pension to the legal heir of the deceased Ulema Pensioner. As of now, 11 applications have been received for claiming Ulema Family Pension and out of which, 3 Ulema Family Pension have been sanctioned.

22.11.5 Honorarium to Kazis

The Government of Tamil Nadu has ordered to pay honorarium of Rs.20,000 per month to Kazis working in Tamil Nadu. A sum of Rs.76.80 lakh was allotted to 32 Kazis for the year 2022-2023.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.76.80 lakh has been allotted for the scheme.

22.12 Implementation of Central Waqf Council Schemes by Tamil Nadu Waqf Board

22.12.1 Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme

This scheme aims to strengthen the functioning and digitalizing of State Waqf Boards, for which the Central Waqf Council has sanctioned a sum of Rs.1.02 crore for the year 2019-2020 and Rs.86 lakh for the year 2020-2021 and

Rs.83.81 lakh for the year 2021-2022 for appointment of Assistant Programmers, Legal Support Officers, Survey Assistants, Zonal Waqf Officers and Accountants and digitization of waqf records, GIS mapping of waqf properties, maintenance of Centralised Computing Facility and to conduct awareness programme to the Muthawallis of the waqf institutions in Tamil Nadu and purchase of stationery items under this scheme. The Appointment of staff, 100% completion of digitization of documents relating to waqf properties, GIS/GPS mapping of 15,794 waqf properties have been completed and all 15,794 Waqf Properties have been put to public view in Central Waqf Council web site: www.wamsi.nic.in

22.12.2 Mapping of Waqf Properties by using Drones

Further instructions have been issued to the GPS/GIS mapping Agencies to conduct GPS/GIS mapping of the Waqf Properties by using Drone and work has been commenced in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Central Waqf Council New Delhi, Tamil Nadu Waqf Board and Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai have signed Memorandum of Understanding on 05.01.2022 for entrusting the work to Anna University at a cost of Rs.44 lakh for completion of GPS/GIS mapping of 20,000 Waqf Properties. Further the Central Waqf Council, New Delhi, Tamil Nadu Waqf Board and The Department of Geography, University of Madras also have signed Memorandum of Understanding on 04.03.2022

for entrusting the work for completion of GPS/GIS mapping of 25,000 Waqf properties.

22.12.3. Sahari Sampathi Vikas Yojana

The Central Waqf Council sanctions development loans to Waqf Institutions under the above scheme.

- The proposed waqf lands for development under this scheme are to be free from encumbrances.
- A maximum of Rs.2 crore or 75% of the estimated cost whichever is less is being sanctioned as loan.
- An amount of 8% of the project cost will be charged as Administrative Processing Cost by the Central Waqf Council.

Information is provided to all the muthawallis through zonal officers to get the details from Central Waqf Council website:

www.centralwaqfcouncil.gov.in

Under the scheme, loan assistance to the tune of Rs.3.06 crore has been provided to 21 waqf institutions in Tamil Nadu.

22.12.4 National Waqf Development Corporation (NAWADCO)

National Waqf Development Corporation has been setup by the Ministry of Minority Affairs along with Central Waqf Council for development of waqf properties. The required funds for development of waqf lands for commercial purpose will be sanctioned and the project will be implemented by NAWADCO and the income will be shared with the waqf management as per the Memorandum of Understanding entered by both parties.

23. TAMIL NADU STATE HAJ COMMITTEE

As per the Haj Committee Act, 2002, (Central Act 35 of 2002), the State Government constitutes the Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee for a period of three years to look after the welfare of the haj pilgrims and also for making necessary arrangements for the successful performance of haj pilgrimage visiting Makkah/ Madinah at Saudi Arabia with the guidance of Haj Committee of India and Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi. The present Committee was reconstituted by the Government during the year 2020 with 12 members.

23.1 Functions of the Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee:

- (i) As per the guidelines of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, invites 100%

online Haj Applications from the intending pilgrims.

- (ii) Selection of applicants for Haj pilgrimage from Tamil Nadu, by draw of lots when the number of applications received is more than the quota.
- (iii) Issue of advice to the applicants regarding payment of passenger fare and other dues to the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai.
- (iv) Deputation of representatives to the Building Selection Team to assist Consulate General of India to select suitable buildings.
- (v) Deputation of Haj volunteers to Saudi Arabia every year to look after the welfare of the Hajis from Tamil Nadu.
- (vi) To liaise with the Regional Passport Offices for obtaining (Haj) passports for the intending Haj pilgrims, if necessary.
- (vii) Printing and supply of handbook on 'Haj and Umrah' free of cost in Tamil language every year to Haj pilgrims.

- (viii) To coordinate the functions relating to various agencies of Government of India, State Government, the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai etc, and other agencies such as Saudi Arabian Airlines, Air India, Airports Authority of India, Immigration, Customs, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), etc., and other voluntary organisations for smooth, hassle-free and successful arrangements for Haj flight operations, etc.
- (ix) To provide supporting arrangements for operation of Haj flights from Chennai to Jeddah and back including transit accommodation, transport from accommodation centres to airport and back, etc.
- (x) To conduct inoculation camps and orientation programmes at various district/taluk headquarters benefitting the pilgrims.
- (xi) Other incidental activities relating to Haj pilgrimage.

23.2 Arrangements for Haj pilgrimage:

Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee undertakes various functions such as calling for applications, issuing of advice regarding payments to be made to Haj Committee of India, issuing travel documents, providing transit accommodation facility etc., in Chennai as per the guidelines from Ministry of Minority Affairs/Haj Committee of India with the help of Tamil Nadu Haj Service Society, other Government departments and voluntary organisations.

Further, this Committee coordinates other functions such as flight operations, remote check-in counters, immigration and customs, security at transit accommodation centres and at airport, transport facility to Haj pilgrims for movement to Airport etc.

The State Haj Committee functions as per the guidelines of the Haj Committee of India and maintain transparency in the matter of selection of pilgrims, finalisation of flight schedules, allotment of accommodation etc by this Committee.

23.3 Restoration of Chennai Embarkation Point

Due to Covid-19 Pandemic, the Government of India reduced the Haj embarkation points from 20 to 10 for Haj 2022. As a result, Cochin had been designated as embarkation point for pilgrims of Tamil Nadu and 1,672 pilgrims performed Haj pilgrimage through Cochin International Airport during Haj 2022. Considering the hardship in travelling to Cochin, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble

Union Minister of Minority Affairs to re-designate Chennai airport as embarkation point to ease the difficulties of Haj pilgrims from Tamil Nadu. Now, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India have declared Chennai airport as one of the embarkation point for Tamil Nadu Haj pilgrims.

23.4 Grants/Assistance from Government:

23.4.1 State Government Haj subsidy.

The Government is implementing a scheme of providing subsidy to the Haj pilgrims of Tamil Nadu who are performing Haj pilgrimage for the first time through Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee. A sum of Rs.4.56 crore has been provided as Haj subsidy to Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee for disbursement to the eligible 1,649 pilgrims at Rs.27,628 per pilgrim for the year

2022. The said amount was credited to their bank account directly.

For the year 2023-2024, a sum of Rs.1,000 lakh has been allotted for the scheme of providing subsidy to Haj pilgrimage.

23.4.2 Administrative Grant.

The Government of Tamil Nadu provides financial assistance to Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee to meet the administrative cost and maintaining the staff. The Government of Tamil Nadu sanctions a sum of Rs.50 lakh as administrative grant every year to the Haj Committee towards payment of salaries to staff, settlement of charges like property tax, electricity charges, metro water and sewerage charges, etc. For the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.50 lakh has been sanctioned as administrative grant. For

2023-2024 also a sum of Rs.50 lakh is allotted as administrative grant.

23.4.3 Sanction of grant for deputation of Haj volunteers and members of Building Selection Team

The Government also sanctions grants to the Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee to meet expenditure on deputation of Haj volunteers to Saudi Arabia who assist the pilgrims and for deputation of representatives in Building Selection Team to Saudi Arabia for selection of buildings to accommodate the pilgrims. For 2022, 11 Haj volunteers were deputed to Saudi Arabia to assist the pilgrims of Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.21.93 lakh was sanctioned as grant to Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee for the year 2022-2023. For 2023-

2024, a sum of Rs.10.29 lakh is allotted under this scheme.

23.4.4 Other grants

The Government also sanctions grants every year for non-recurring expenditure like provision of certain equipment for the smooth functioning of the Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee. During the year 2022-2023, a sum of Rs.90,000/- was sanctioned by the Government for purchasing a laptop for the Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee. The Government also reimburses expenditure towards Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance of members of Tamil Nadu State Haj Committee in respect of their visits to attend meeting of the Committee.

CONCLUSION:

This government is firmly committed in promoting and enhancing access to Minorities in the matters of employment, education and economic development. Through introducing various welfare schemes and revamping its allocation, this government is widening the extent of development benefits for Minorities. Overall, this government will continue its focus on inclusive development and safeguarding the legal and constitutional rights of the Minorities.

GINGEE K.S. MASTHAN

**Minister for Minorities Welfare and
Non-Resident Tamils Welfare**

ANNEXURE
ALLOTMENT FOR THE YEAR 2023 – 2024
(Rs. in lakh)

Department	Revenue	Capital	Loan	Total
Tamil Nadu Waqf Board and Haj Committee	3250.90	-	-	3250.90
State Minorities Commission	88.35	-	-	88.35
Directorate of Minorities Welfare	3612.72	31403.73	-	35016.45
Tamil Nadu Waqf Tribunal	108.60	-	-	108.60
Total	7060.57	31403.73	-	38464.30



Honourable Chief Minister handed over Haj subsidy to Haj pilgrims who have performed Haj pilgrimage during 2022 through Tamil Nadu State Haj committee.



Honourable Minister for Minorities welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare distributed welfare assistance to the minorities on 22.11.2022



Honourable Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare distributed Grant for repair and renovation of Christian churches on 05.08.2022

Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation



Individual Term Loan-power loom
Loan amount-Rs.7,60,000



Individual Term Loan-solar battery shop;
Loan amount-Rs.7,60,000



Individual Term Loan-tailoring
Loan amount-Rs.2,00,000



Individual Term Loan bi-cycle shop;
Loan amount Rs.2,00,000



Honourable Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare and Honourable Minister for Backward Classes Welfare distributed welfare assistance to the minorities on 17.12.2022.



Honourable Chief Minister distributed bi-cycles to the members of the Ulema and Employees Welfare Board on 12.08.2022

