



DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF  
DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

POLICY NOTE

2024-2025

DEMAND NO.52

**M.K. STALIN**

CHIEF MINISTER

©

Government of Tamil Nadu

2024

## **INDEX**

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Contents</b>   | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| 1.             | Introduction  | 1               |
| 2              | The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016   | 2-4             |
| 2.1            | Action taken to implement the RPwD Act, 2016  | 4-6             |
| 2.2            | Administrative Structure  | 7               |
| 3.             | The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 | 8               |
| 4.             | Sustainable Development Goals   | 9-10            |
| 5.             | Issuance of National Identity Disability Card (NIDC) based on disability certificate for Differently Abled Persons            | 10-11           |
| 6.             | Registration and Recognition of Non-Governmental Organisations  | 11-12           |
| 7.             | Early Intervention Centres for the Children with Disabilities   | 12-16           |
| 8.             | Mobile Therapy Units  | 16-17           |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Contents</b>  | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 9.             | Day care centre for Children with Intellectual Disability  | 17              |
| 9.1            | Day care centre for persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy                                     | 18              |
| 10             | Rescue scheme for the wandering Mentally Ill persons   | 19-20           |
| 11             | Rehabilitation Homes   | 20              |
| 11.1           | Rehabilitation Homes for Persons with Intellectual Disability above 14 years                     | 20-21           |
| 11.2           | Rehabilitation Homes for the Mentally Ill  | 21-22           |
| 11.2.1         | Construction of new homes for rehabilitation of Mentally Ill and Intellectually Disabled persons | 22              |
| 11.3           | Halfway Homes  | 23              |
| 11.4           | "Home Again" Scheme  | 24              |
| 11.5           | Rehabilitation Homes for the Leprosy Cured Persons   | 24-26           |
| 11.6           | Rehabilitation Homes for the Spinal Cord Injured Persons   | 26-27           |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Contents</b>   | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| 12             | State Resource Cum Training Centres (SRTC) at Chennai and Tiruchirappalli | 27-28           |
| 13             | Special Education   | 28              |
| 13.1           | Special Schools   | 29-30           |
| 13.2           | Initiatives taken for developing special education                        | 30              |
| 13.2.1         | Smart Classes   | 30-31           |
| 13.2.2         | Modern reading devices for the visually challenged                        | 31              |
| 13.2.3         | Upgraded special schools  | 31-32           |
| 13.2.4         | Enhancing the honorarium for Special Educators                            | 32-33           |
| 13.2.5         | Enhancing the Feeding grant   | 33              |
| 13.3           | Scholarships  | 34-35           |
| 13.4           | Readers Allowance   | 35-36           |
| 13.5           | Scribe Assistance   | 36              |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Contents</b>  | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 13.6           | Cash Incentive scheme to prevent school drop-outs                            | 37-38           |
| 13.7           | Assistance for Differently Abled Law Graduates                               | 38              |
| 13.8           | B.Com., BCA., courses for the Hearing Impaired Students                      | 39-40           |
| 14             | Assistive Devices  | 40              |
| 14.1           | Different Types of Assistive devices   | 40-44           |
| 14.2           | Choice Based System to select Appliances                                     | 44-45           |
| 15             | Social Security Schemes  | 45              |
| 15.1           | Maintenance Allowance  | 45-47           |
| 15.2           | Financial Assistance to the differently abled persons with High Support Need | 47              |
| 15.3           | Unemployment Allowance for the Differently Abled Persons                     | 48-49           |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Contents</b>  | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 15.4           | Providing Interest free loan assistance for the differently abled persons to get House allotment                             | 49-50           |
| 15.5           | Marriage Assistance  | 50-51           |
| 15.6           | Travel Concession Scheme   | 52              |
| 15.6.1         | Hundred percent Free Travel Concession (with Bus pass)   | 52              |
| 15.6.2         | Seventy five percent travel concession   | 53              |
| 16             | Schemes for Socio-Economic Empowerment of Differently Abled Persons  | 53-55           |
| 16.1           | Incentive scheme to provide assistance to differently abled persons who appear for UPSC and TNPSC Group-I Mains examinations | 55              |
| 16.2           | Equal Opportunity Policy   | 56              |
| 16.3           | National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)  | 56-57           |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Contents</b>  | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 16.4           | Financial assistance to start micro enterprises              | 57-58           |
| 16.5           | Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)     | 58-59           |
| 16.6           | Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme (UYEGP)     | 59-60           |
| 16.7           | Financial assistance to set-up AavinParlour                  | 60-61           |
| 16.8           | Book Binder Training   | 61-62           |
| 16.9           | Multimedia and Digital Photography Training                  | 62              |
| 16.10          | Fitter Training  | 63              |
| 16.11          | Five percent allocation of shops in the commercial complexes | 63-64           |
| 17             | State Awards   | 64-69           |
| 18             | Tamil Nadu Welfare Board                                     | 69-73           |
| 19             | Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme       | 73              |
| 20             | Rights Project   | 74-76           |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Contents</b>  | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 21             | Special Initiatives  | 76-77           |
| 22             | Government of India Schemes  | 77              |
| 22.1           | Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID Card)  | 77-78           |
| 22.2           | Fitting of Assistive devices for the differently abled persons under ADIP scheme                     | 78-79           |
| 22.3           | Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)  | 79              |
| 22.4           | Accessible India Campaign – Awareness generation programme on Accessibility (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) | 80-81           |
| 22.5           | National Scholarship for the Students with Disabilities  | 81-82           |
| 23             | Conclusion   | 82              |



## Index - Table

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Content</b>   | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 1.             | Categories of Disability                                 | 3               |
| 2.             | Early Intervention Centres                               | 14              |
| 3.             | Programs for Early Intervention Centres                  | 15              |
| 4.             | Leprosy Cured Persons Rehabilitation Homes               | 25              |
| 5.             | Educational Scholarship                                  | 34              |
| 6.             | Reader's Allowance                                       | 35              |
| 7.             | Cash Incentive for continuing Higher Secondary Education | 37              |
| 8.             | Aids and Appliances                                      | 40              |
| 9.             | Maintenance Allowance                                    | 46              |
| 10.            | Unemployment Allowance                                   | 48              |
| 11.            | State Level Award Conferred on the Independence Day      | 65              |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Content</b>  | <b>Page No.</b> |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| 12.            | State Level Annual Award Conferred on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> of December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities | 67              |
| 13.            | Details of Tamil Nadu Welfare Board Assistances   | 70              |
| 14.            | National Scholarship  | 82              |
| 15.            | Scheme wise Allocation for the Year 2024-2025   | 83              |

**DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF  
DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS  
POLICY NOTE  
2024-2025**

**1. Introduction**

The Government of Tamil Nadu created a separate department to focus attention on the matters concerning the Differently Abled in 1992 and the department was originally named as the Department for Rehabilitation of Disabled. It was renamed as the Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons in the year 2010 by the former Chief Minister Dr. M. Karunanidhi and the scope of the department was widened to ensure the overall well being of the Differently Abled. The fact that the Chief Minister himself heads the department highlights the unwavering commitment that the Government has towards the cause of the Differently Abled.

The welfare measures taken up by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the Differently Abled Persons include initiatives designed for early identification, early intervention, health care, inclusive school education, higher education, livelihood promotion and development of an accessible environment, thereby paving the way for an inclusive society that enhances the dignity of life and equality of opportunity for the Differently Abled.

## **2. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, was enacted in 2016. It came into force on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Act fulfilled the commitment made by the Government of India at United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). In the Act, disabilities are classified into 21 categories and provisions were made towards economic empowerment and

rights of Differently Abled Persons (DAPs) to provide a dignified life for them in society. It also envisages non-discrimination and full participation in the society. The classification of 21 types of disabilities are as follows:

**Table 1**  
**Categories of Disability**

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Disability</b>                    |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1.             | Locomotor Disability                 |
| 2.             | Acid Attack Victims                  |
| 3.             | Cerebral Palsy                       |
| 4.             | Leprosy Cured Persons                |
| 5.             | Muscular Dystrophy                   |
| 6.             | Dwarfism                             |
| 7.             | Blindness                            |
| 8.             | Low-vision                           |
| 9.             | Deaf (Hearing Impairment)            |
| 10.            | Hard of Hearing (Hearing Impairment) |
| 11.            | Speech and Language Disability       |
| 12.            | Intellectual Disability              |
| 13.            | Autism spectrum disorder             |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Disability</b>               |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 14.            | Specific Learning Disabilities  |
| 15.            | Mental Illness                  |
| 16.            | Chronic neurological Conditions |
| 17.            | Multiple Sclerosis              |
| 18.            | Parkinsons Disease              |
| 19.            | Thalassemia                     |
| 20.            | Haemophilia                     |
| 21.            | Sickle Cell Disease             |

## **2.1. Action taken to implement the RPwD Act, 2016**

The following steps are being taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to implement the RPwD Act, 2016:

- a) As per section 101 of the RPwD Act 2016, Tamil Nadu Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2018 were framed.
- b) As per section 66 of the Act, the State Advisory Board for persons with Disabilities

was constituted and meetings are being convened periodically.

- c) As per section 72 of the Act, District level committees were formed to monitor the implementation of the Act.
- d) As per section 84 of the Act, the Principal Judge, City Civil Court in Chennai and the Principal Judicial Court in each district have been designated as special courts to enquire into the offences and grievances reported by the Differently Abled Persons. As per section 85 of the Act, the Special Public Prosecutors (Human Rights) shall handle such cases on behalf of the differently abled persons.
- e) Equal Opportunity Policy was notified for providing accessibility in workplace and job opportunities for differently abled persons in both Government and private sector establishments. This department monitors the compliance of the policy by both the

Government and the private sector establishments.

- f) As per section 34 of the Act, four percent reservation in employment opportunities was mandated in the RPwD Act, 2016 for Differently Abled Persons in Government and Public Sector undertakings and identification of jobs are being done for providing such employment opportunities. An expert committee was constituted for identifying posts suitable for persons with Bench mark disabilities (40% and above).
- g) Action is taken to allocate 5% of seats in higher education to differently abled persons and to provide age relaxation of 5 years for the students with disabilities to get admission in Government and Government aided institutions.
- h) A State Fund of ₹.10.00 crores was allocated to formulate new and innovative schemes for the Welfare of Differently Abled.



## **2.2 Administrative Structure**

In order to implement the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016 and to ensure that the various welfare measures/schemes rolled out by the Government reaches the differently abled persons across the State, the Directorate for Welfare of the Differently Abled functions in Chennai. To carry out the welfare schemes at the District level, 39 District Differently Abled Welfare Offices were established headed by the District Differently Abled Welfare Officer (DDAWO) assisted by rehabilitation and ministerial staff. The department also has special schools for the visually impaired, hearing impaired, severely affected locomotor disabled, a Government Institute for Intellectually Differently Abled and rehabilitation homes for leprosy cured functioning under it.

### **3. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999**

This Act was enacted for the benefit of the persons affected by Autism, Cerebral Palsy (CP), Mental Retardation (MR) and Multiple Disabilities. Under this Act, guardians are appointed for the children affected by these conditions. 5,577 Guardianship Certificates were issued upto February 2024 under this Act by Local Level Committees formed under the Chairmanship of District Collector in all Districts. The committee consists of members representing registered NGOs and the parents of the intellectually challenged.

#### **4. Sustainable Development Goals**

The Department is taking steps in alleviating poverty and hunger, imparting value-based inclusive special education and providing viable employment opportunities to the Differently abled. Several steps are also being taken to reduce inequality by providing opportunities and accessibility to the Differently Abled Persons in all aspects of life.

The Government allocated about 58% of the budget of the Department for Welfare of the Differently Abled for social security schemes which promote social protection, economic livelihood, thereby reducing poverty among differently abled persons. The Government provides a maintenance allowance of ₹.2,000/- per month to 2.36 lakh differently abled persons with an enhanced budget allocation of ₹.805.18 crores.

The Government is operating Rehabilitation homes, Day Care Centres with therapeutic interventions and residential care to Differently

Abled Persons to promote social and economic rehabilitation. House site pattas, housing allotment to the economically poor differently abled, extension of the eligibility criteria of self-employment loans to include parents of the intellectually challenged differently abled persons are the other steps for furthering the economic interests of the differently abled persons.

### **5. Issuance of National Identity Disability Card (NIDC) based on disability certificate for Differently Abled Persons**

The Differently abled persons with benchmark disability who have a Disability Certificate are eligible to get benefits of various Government schemes. The Disability certificate can be issued by the appropriate certifying authority relevant to the particular disability viz., the medical board in Government Medical College Hospitals, District Headquarter Hospitals, Taluk and Non-

Taluk Hospitals as per the severity of the disability. The NIDC (passbook) is given by the District Differently Abled Welfare Officer based on the disability certificate issued, in order to enable access to various Government concessions.

## **6. Registration and Recognition of Non-Governmental Organisations**

In order to encourage Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) working for the welfare of the differently abled persons, the Government extends grant-in-aid support to those seeking financial support. Funds are allocated to provide food, medicine, rehabilitation services, special education for the Differently Abled Persons and salary grant for the rehabilitation staff of the institutions.

As per section 50 of Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 the Director for Welfare of Differently Abled is empowered to register

Non- Governmental Organisations working for the welfare of the differently abled persons. So far 660 Non-Governmental Organisations have been registered in Tamil Nadu. Under the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Private School Act 1973, and the rules framed in 1974, 393 special schools have been accorded recognition.

## **7. Early Intervention Centres for the Children with Disabilities**

The State Government provides early intervention services to identify and prevent the progress of disability at the initial stage itself. These services are being provided for children less than 6 years through Non-Governmental Organisations for various types of disabilities such as hearing impairment, intellectual disability, visual impairment, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder and multiple disabilities. Across the state there are 93 Early Intervention Centres

with 304 special educators which are functioning at the District headquarters. These centers serve 2618 children.

In these centres, disability specific interventions for the children and counselling for the parents are provided along with learning materials, noon-meal, weaning food and free transport facilities. A tour is also arranged for the children once in a year. After the intervention, the children are mainstreamed to normal school based on their physical and mental growth.

The relevant details of Early Intervention Centres are given below:

**Table 2**  
**Early Intervention Centres**

| <b>Early Intervention Centres (EIC)</b>     | <b>No. of EICs</b> | <b>No. of Beneficiaries</b> | <b>No. of Special Educators serving in the EIC</b> | <b>Budget allocation for the year 2024-2025 (₹. in Lakh)</b> |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| EIC for Hearing Impaired Children           | 33                 | 683                         | 63   | 156.94   |
| EIC for Intellectually Challenged Children  | 32                 | 1311                        | 140  | 371.52   |
| EIC for Visually Impaired Children          | 6                  | 113                         | 12   | 32.88  |
| EIC for children with Cerebral Palsy        | 2                  | 69                          | 7  | 17.76  |
| EIC for children with Autism                | 19                 | 424                         | 81   | 251.94   |
| EIC for children with Multiple Disabilities | 1                  | 18                          | 2  | 4.80   |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>93</b>          | <b>2618</b>                 | <b>304</b>   | <b>835.84</b>  |



**Table 3**  
**Programmes in Early Intervention**  
**Centres**

| <b>Program</b>   | <b>Number of beneficiaries</b> | <b>No. of Special Educators benefitted</b> | <b>Funds allocated (in ₹.)</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| One day tour for children in Early Intervention Centres  | 1492                           | -  | 7.46                           |
| Training for Special Educators working in Early Intervention Centres for children with Intellectual Disability | -                              | 140  | 4.73                           |
| Transport allowance for providing Noon meal and weaning food from ICDS   | 2278                           | -  | 45.90                          |

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.893.93 lakh was incurred for the Early Intervention Centres.

A sum of ₹.893.93 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for these centres.

## **8. Mobile Therapy Units**

There are 39 mobile therapy units functioning across the State to deliver Early Intervention service to Differently Abled children at their doorstep in the rural areas. These units are available at the district headquarters and are equipped with IEC materials to create awareness and therapy equipment to provide rehabilitation services. The services are rendered by rehabilitation assistants.

Special Camps are organised at District level to provide rehabilitation services and to create awareness about therapeutic interventions. During the year 2023-2024, 3678 Special camps were conducted to benefit 14,594 Differently Abled Persons.

In the financial year 2023-24 a sum of ₹.146.52 lakh was spent for these units.

A sum of ₹.172.97 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for these units.

### **9. Day care centre for Children with Intellectual Disability**

There are two day care centres run by Non-Governmental Organisations in Theni District where a total of 60 children are enrolled. There are two special educators, rehabilitation staff, care assistants and sanitary workers serving in these institutions. The special educators working in these centres are paid ₹.18,000/- as monthly honorarium from the grants provided by the Government.

In the financial year 2023-24, a sum of ₹.10.27 lakh was utilised for the two day care centres.

A sum of ₹.20.10 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **9.1 Day care centres for persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy**

There are 14 Day care centres operated by Non-Governmental Organisations for providing rehabilitation services for persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy. These are functioning in the Districts of Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Madurai, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Coimbatore, Villupuram, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Dharmapuri and Thanjavur. These centres provide physiotherapy and basic medical diagnostic services.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.168.82 lakh was incurred to benefit 472 beneficiaries.

A sum of ₹.196.26 Lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **10. Rescue scheme for the wandering Mentally Ill persons**

A rescue scheme for the mentally ill persons who are abandoned by their families and wandering in public places is being implemented from 2010. The wandering mentally ill persons are rescued by the Non-Governmental Organisations and admitted in the registered rehabilitation homes after giving medical treatment. After adequate recovery, social workers in the homes attempt the reunion of these persons with their families.

The NGOs are given financial assistance at the rate of ₹.1500/-per rescued mentally ill person. A budget allocation of ₹.7.50 lakh is made every year for this programme.

In the financial year 2023-24, 445 wandering mentally ill persons were rescued and admitted in rehabilitation homes. A sum of ₹.6.67 lakh was incurred as expenditure.

A sum of ₹.7.50 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **11. Rehabilitation Homes**

### **11.1. Rehabilitation homes for persons with Intellectual Disability above 14 years**

Persons with Intellectual Disability are enrolled in early intervention centres and day care centres for providing life skill training and rehabilitation services through Non-Governmental Organisations.

Currently 67 homes covering 2771 beneficiaries are functioning to provide vocational training and rehabilitation services for children above 14 years along with residential care. These homes are functioning to accommodate both genders together or to provide gender specific care. Food, accommodation, medical services,

vocational training in Horticulture, Candle making, Bakery units etc., are provided here.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.1067.26 lakh was incurred for the benefit of 2771 beneficiaries in these 67 homes.

A sum of ₹.1186.28 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **11.2. Rehabilitation homes for the Mentally III**

Rehabilitation homes are run through Non-Governmental Organisations for persons with mental illness. In these homes, the beneficiaries are provided food, clothing, accommodation and medical services. Out of 108 homes functioning, 51 homes are receiving grants from the Government and the remaining 57 homes are functioning on their own.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.841.84 lakh was incurred for the benefit of 2795 beneficiaries in these homes.

A sum of ₹.967.14 Lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **11.2.1. Construction of new homes for rehabilitation of mentally ill and Intellectually Disabled persons**

In the financial year 2023-24, four acres of land was allotted by the State Government to construct 3 rehabilitation homes for mentally ill and intellectually disabled persons at Thiruvarur and Mayiladuthurai districts for the benefit of 150 persons. The construction work was initiated through the Public Works Department with the budget allocation of ₹.14.00 crores.



### **11.3. Half way Homes**

The mentally ill may recover partially or fully with treatment, care and intervention. Halfway homes are established by NGOs to achieve community re-integration of the mentally ill persons who were abandoned by their families and have sufficiently recovered so as to be re-integrated with society. These beneficiaries are provided free accommodation with food, medical services and vocational training.

These Homes are functioning in 5 Districts viz., Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirupathur, Tiruchirappalli and Kanniyakumari and accommodates 250 beneficiaries.

In the financial year 2023-24, 186 persons benefitted from these homes at the total cost of ₹.125.66 lakh.

A sum of ₹.125.66 Lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

#### **11.4. "Home Again" Scheme**

The 'Home Again' scheme was introduced in 2023-24, to re-integrate with the community the mentally ill persons who had improved considerably. This will be operational in 5 districts in the first phase with each district having 2 units. Funds were sanctioned for establishing ten homes for the benefit of 40 mentally ill persons who had recovered. NGOs who have registered under the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 and are competent enough were selected to implement this scheme.

#### **11.5. Rehabilitation Homes for the Leprosy Cured Persons**

There are 10 Government Rehabilitation homes functioning across the State for persons cured of leprosy. Such persons abandoned by their families are admitted in these homes for their rehabilitation. The family members of leprosy affected persons can also be admitted in these homes.

In these homes, free food, accommodation, medical treatment, two sets of clothing, MCR Chappal, artificial limbs, spectacles and bed-sheets are provided for the inmates. A sum of ₹.2000/- is provided for the funeral expenses of deceased inmates.

From 2023-24 onwards, the feeding grant was enhanced from ₹.42/- to ₹.100/- per beneficiary per day for the 592 inmates admitted in the ten Government Rehabilitation homes with the budget allocation of ₹.124.00 lakh.

The Government Rehabilitation Homes are functioning in the following districts:

**Table 4**  
**Leprosy Cured Persons' Rehabilitation**  
**Homes**

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Place</b> | <b>District</b> |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1.             | Paranur      | Chengalpattu    |
| 2.             | Ulundhurpet  | Kallakurichi    |
| 3.             | Bargur       | Krishnagiri     |
| 4.             | Machuvadi    | Pudukottai      |

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Place</b>  | <b>District</b> |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 5.             | Manayeripatti | Thanjavur       |
| 6.             | Y. Pudhupatti | Madurai         |
| 7.             | Mallavaadi    | Tiruvannamalai  |
| 8.             | Selliyampatti | Dharmapuri      |
| 9.             | Deviyakurichi | Salem           |
| 10.            | Vinnapalli    | Erode           |

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.1863.80 lakh was incurred for the benefit of 592 inmates admitted in these homes.

A sum of ₹.1739.61 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for these homes.

### **11.6. Rehabilitation Homes for spinal cord injured persons**

For the rehabilitation of the persons affected with spinal cord injury, three Homes were established in the Districts of Tiruppur, Coimbatore

and Thiruvannamalai at a cost of ₹.100.00 lakh to benefit 75 persons.

A sum of ₹.71.44 Lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **12. State Resource cum Training Centres at Chennai and Tiruchirappalli**

A State Resource cum Training centre was established at Chennai in 2005 and its regional unit was set up at Tiruchirappalli in 2012. These aim to provide integrated rehabilitation services, training, information and guidance that are essential for the Differently Abled Persons. It includes providing information related to rehabilitation services, training for the differently abled children, their parents and care givers to live with disability.

In addition to this, Disability Certificate and NIDC are issued in these centres to avail other Government concessions. Certificates for travel concession in both railways and transport

department, for income tax exemption/ relaxation, for scribe assistance and extra time to write Government examinations are also given to the eligible Differently Abled Persons from these centres.

These centres also provide Early Intervention services and helpline services on the toll free number 1800-425-0111 which has been setup exclusively for Differently Abled Persons.

Day care centres for mentally ill persons are also functioning at Chennai and Tiruchirappalli.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.98.15 lakh was incurred for running these centres successfully.

A sum of ₹.98.17 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **13. Special Education**

Special Education is given to the children with disabilities following the policy of the Government to give compulsory Education for all.

Under this scheme, all students studying in Government special schools are given special education with free hostel, food, clothing and educational materials. Besides this, the students are also given scholarships, scribe assistance, reader's allowance, modern learning devices etc,. Study tours are also organised for the students annually.

### **13.1 Special Schools**

To provide special education, there are 22 Government special schools, 48 Government-aided special schools and 310 special schools run by NGOs with grants from Government. Based on the needs of the special children various categories of schools are functioning across the state. 10 Government Special Schools are functioning for the benefit of the visually challenged and ten schools for hearing impaired students. There is one special school each functioning for the intellectually challenged and severely affected locomotor

disabled. Totally, 1100 children are benefitting from these 22 Government run institutions.

Among the 48 aided institutions, 9 are functioning for the visually challenged, 17 are functioning for the hearing impaired, 7 for locomotor affected and 15 for intellectually challenged children. Totally, 4419 students are getting special education through these institutions.

## **13.2 Initiatives taken for developing special education**

### **13.2.1 Smart Classes**

Smart classes with Hi-tech devices were introduced in Government special schools. Touch screen boards attached to computer devices were given for hearing impaired children.

The visually challenged students are taught Braille using high-tech electronic devices. These facilities were provided in all ten Government



special schools and the two regular schools which belong to the School Education Department at a total cost of ₹.100.08 lakh in the year 2021-22.

### **13.2.2 Modern reading devices for the Visually Challenged**

During the year 2023-24 modern reading devices were procured for 1000 visually challenged students undergoing higher education at the cost of ₹.13,200/- each with the total budget allocation of ₹.132.00 lakh.

### **13.2.3 Upgraded special schools**

The Government aims to facilitate the differently abled children to pursue higher education in their own Districts. Accordingly, the Government special school for hearing impaired functioning at Pudukkottai was upgraded from middle school to High School. Similarly, the High Schools for hearing impaired children at Erode and

Virudhunagar were upgraded to Higher Secondary Schools.

#### **13.2.4 Enhancing the honorarium for Special Educators**

In order to encourage the 1009 special educators serving in the NGOs functioning with the support of Government, their monthly honorarium was enhanced from ₹.14,000/- to ₹.18,000/-. During the year 2023-24, a sum of ₹.2179.44 lakh was spent for this purpose. During the year 2024-25, a sum of ₹.2502.62 lakh is allocated for this scheme.

During the year 2023-24, the amount of honorarium was enhanced for the staff working in the Early Intervention Centres and rehabilitation homes to a total budget of ₹.534.78 lakh and distributed to the Institutions.

During the year 2023-24, totally 326 NGOs were permitted to engage Care Assistants who

provide care to the children with disability with the monthly honorarium of ₹.4500/-.

A sum of ₹.176.04 lakh was allocated in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for implementing this scheme.

### **13.2.5 Enhancing the Feeding grant**

From the year 2023-24, the weaning food and noon-meal scheme was extended to the children who are studying in the special schools and Early Intervention Centres managed by NGOs.

The monthly feeding grants for Non-Governmental Organizations were enhanced from ₹.900/- to ₹.1,200/- to benefit 7101 students, at an expenditure of ₹.852.12 lakh during the year 2023-24.

A sum of ₹.1026.28 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### 13.3 Scholarships

To promote special education and to encourage students' attendance, scholarships are being given to the differently abled students every year according to their specific level of education.

During the year 2023-24, the amount of scholarship was enhanced to double with the additional allocation of ₹.700.00 lakh. The amount of assistance is detailed as below:

**Table 5**  
**Educational Scholarship**

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Level of Education</b>                  | <b>Annual Amount of Assistance (in ₹.)</b> |
|----------------|--|--|
| 1              | 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Standard  | 2,000/-                                    |
| 2              | 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Standard  | 6,000/-                                    |
| 3              | 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Standard | 8,000/-                                    |
| 4              | U.G Degree                                 | 12,000/-                                   |
| 5              | P.G / Professional                         | 14,000/-                                   |

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹. 1261.88 lakh was incurred to benefit 18,629 students under this scheme.

A sum of ₹.1386.02 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **13.4 Reader's Allowance**

To facilitate reading of lessons for the visually impaired students, an allowance is given for engaging readers. This amount is given annually at the following rate to the students pursuing education from 9<sup>th</sup> standard to Graduate level.

**Table 6**  
**Readers Allowance**

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Level of Education</b>                   | <b>Reading Allowance (in ₹.)</b> |
|----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1              | 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> standard | 3000/-                           |
| 2              | UG Degree                                   | 5000/-                           |
| 3              | PG / Professional Degree                    | 6000/-                           |

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.73.06 lakh was incurred to benefit 1360 students.

A sum of ₹.100 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **13.5 Scribe Assistance**

Visually impaired students studying in 9<sup>th</sup> standard and above in Government and Government aided special schools are provided with Scribe Assistance at the rate of ₹.300/- per paper to write the examinations.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.27.05 lakh was incurred to benefit 536 students.

A sum of ₹.45.11 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **13.6 Cash incentive scheme to prevent school drop-outs**

To encourage education and prevent dropping out of the differently abled students studying in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standards, an annual assistance in the form of cash incentive ranging from ₹.1500/- to ₹.2000/- is given to continue higher education. This amount is deposited in Tamil Nadu Power Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation and the amount is paid with interest to the students after they complete 12<sup>th</sup> standard.

**Table 7**  
**Cash Incentive for continuing Higher Secondary Education**

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Class Level</b>        | <b>Amount (in ₹.)</b> |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1             | 10 <sup>th</sup> Standard | 1,500/-               |
| 2             | 11 <sup>th</sup> Standard | 1,500/-               |
| 3             | 12 <sup>th</sup> Standard | 2,000/-               |

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.21.88 lakh was incurred to benefit 1,313 students under this scheme.

A sum of ₹.24.05 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **13.7 Assistance to Differently Abled Law Graduates**

In order to promote professional education among Differently Abled Persons, a financial assistance of ₹.50,000/- is given towards purchase of books etc., to the Differently abled persons who have completed law graduation and registered in the Bar Council.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.19.00 lakh was incurred to benefit 38 Differently abled persons under this scheme.

A sum of ₹.20.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.



### **13.8 B.Com, B.C.A courses for the Hearing-impaired students**

In order to promote employment for the hearing impaired students, they are encouraged to pursue B.Com and B.C.A. courses after they complete higher secondary education.

Under B. Com, B.C.A Courses a special section was established at Presidency College, Chennai with a maximum annual capacity of 30 students. A consolidated pay of ₹.20,000/- is given to three guest lecturers and ₹.6000/- for the computer lab-technician handling this section per month.

In order to facilitate the students hailing from Southern Districts to pursue their higher education, similar courses of B. Com and B.C.A were started at Government Arts College, Paramakudi at Ramanathapuram District in 2022.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.16.67 lakh was incurred to benefit 272 students.

A sum of ₹.16.32 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **14. ASSISTIVE DEVICES**

### **14.1. Different Types of Assistive devices**

In order to make the Differently abled persons independent in terms of their mobility and communication with others, need based assistive devices are being provided.

**Table 8**  
**Assistive Devices**

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Assistive Devices</b> | <b>Number of Beneficiaries</b> | <b>Expenditure incurred during 2023-2024 (₹.in Lakh)</b> | <b>2024-2025 Budget allocation (₹. in Lakh)</b> |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1             | Auxiliary crutches       | 1759                           | 12.84  | 12.00   |

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Assistive Devices</b>   | <b>Number of Beneficiaries</b> | <b>Expenditure incurred during 2023-2024 (₹.in Lakh)</b> | <b>2024-2025 Budget allocation (₹. in Lakh)</b> |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 2             | Elbow crutches   | 1250                           | 7.25   | 7.50  |
| 3             | Magnifier  | 145                            | 14.92  | 22.00   |
| 4             | Braille Watches  | 1650                           | 26.99  | 27.00   |
| 5             | Goggles  | 2331                           | 3.22   | 3.00  |
| 6             | Reflecting Folding Sticks  | 1825                           | 7.85   | 10.00   |
| 7             | Walking device   | 109                            | 2.17   | 10.00   |
| 8             | Wheelchair for Cerebral Palsy affected persons                       | 893                            | 83.50  | 30.00   |
| 9             | Alternative and Augmentative Communication device with AVAZ software | 135                            | 47.92  | 132.65  |
| 10            | Retrofitted Petrol Scooter for Differently Abled Persons             | 5324                           | 5111.63  | 2285.00   |

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Assistive Devices</b>   | <b>Number of Beneficiaries</b> | <b>Expenditure incurred during 2023-2024 (₹.in Lakh)</b> | <b>2024-2025 Budget allocation (₹. in Lakh)</b> |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 11            | Specially designed Retrofitted Petrol Scooter for spinal cord affected persons | 365                            | 414.15   |   |
| 12            | Smartphone for Hearing and Visually impaired persons                           | 4793                           | 639.82   | 1375.00   |
| 13            | Angel pro daisy player   | 115                            | 12.44  | 11.20   |
| 14            | Corner Seat for children with cerebral palsy                                   | 279                            | 17.16  | 10.00   |
| 15            | Plastic Calliper   | 258                            | 43.33  | 6.50  |
| 16            | Metal Calliper   | 58                             | 9.19   | 6.50  |
| 17            | Battery Operated Wheel Chair with Neo Bolt                                     | 1041                           | 1100.33  | 1300.82   |
| 18            | Tricycle   | 1270                           | 114.93   | 75.00   |

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Assistive Devices</b>          | <b>Number of Beneficiaries</b> | <b>Expenditure incurred during 2023-2024 (₹.in Lakh)</b> | <b>2024-2025 Budget allocation (₹. in Lakh)</b> |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 19            | Foldable Wheelchair               | 2179                           | 172.14   | 65.00   |
| 20            | Motorized Sewing Machine          | 4227                           | 289.13   | 162.39  |
| 21            | Behind the Ear Hearing Aid        | 5877                           | 163.38   | 121.00  |
| 22            | Electronic Braille Reader         | 43                             | 21.07  | 142.03  |
| 23            | Modular Reflective Folding Sticks | 556                            | 24.86  | 75.00   |
| 24            | Artificial Limb                   | 902                            | 84.79  | 6.50  |
| 25            | Modular Reading Device            | 1000                           | 132.00   | 140.00  |
|               | <b>Total</b>                      | <b>38,384</b>                  | <b>8,557.01</b>  | <b>6,036.09</b>                                 |

During 2023-24, the scheme of supplying Retrofitted Petrol Scooter to differently abled persons whose both legs are affected was extended to one leg affected differently abled

persons and 500 persons benefited at a cost of ₹.450.00 lakh from this.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.8557.01 lakh was incurred to benefit 38,384 beneficiaries by providing aids and appliances.

A sum of ₹.6036.09 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **14.2. Choice Based system to select Appliances**

This scheme was introduced in the year 2021-22 to allow the differently abled persons to select the appliance model of their own choice. As an initial step, Tricycle, Wheel Chair, Battery operated wheelchair, behind the ear hearing aid, motorized sewing machines and Retrofitted petrol scooters were introduced under this scheme. The beneficiaries are given subsidies to have basic assured models. If the price exceeds the subsidy

amount for the selected model as per their choice, the additional cost has to be borne by the differently abled persons.

In the financial year 2023-24, 367 beneficiaries utilized this scheme.

## **15. Social Security Schemes**

The Government takes several steps to protect and provide equal rights of the differently abled persons by framing social security schemes to promote social inclusion.

### **15.1. Maintenance Allowance**

To support the livelihood of the differently abled persons, a maintenance allowance of ₹.2000/- per month is provided to the eligible differently abled persons as detailed in table given below. Applications are scrutinized and allowance is disbursed directly to the beneficiaries account through the District Differently Abled Welfare Office.

**Table 9**  
**Maintenance Allowance**

| Sl. No | Categories of Differently abled persons  | Eligible percentage to get assistance | No. of DAPs 2023-24 |
|--------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1      | Persons with Intellectual Disability   | 40% and above                         | 1,77,156            |
| 2      | Severely affected Persons  | 75% and above                         | 40,274              |
| 3      | Persons affected with Parkinson's Disease, Spinal Cord Injury and Multiple Sclerosis | 40% and above                         | 2,828               |
| 4      | Persons affected with Muscular Dystrophy   | 40% and above                         | 4,357               |
| 5      | Leprosy affected Person  | 40% and above                         | 11,291              |
|        |  | <b>Total</b>                          | <b>2,35,906</b>     |

In the financial the year 2023-24, ₹.56,749.44 lakh was incurred to benefit 2,35,906 beneficiaries under this scheme.



A sum of ₹.64,922.88 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **15.2.Financial Assistance to the differently abled persons with High Support Need**

A financial assistance of ₹.1000/- per month is given to the care taker who supports the differently abled persons with high support need. This assistance is given based on the recommendations of Assessment Board and certified as "differently abled persons with high support need".

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.688.97 lakh was incurred to benefit 7788 beneficiaries under this scheme.

A sum of ₹.719.56 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **15.3. Unemployment allowance for the Differently Abled Persons**

Unemployment allowance is given to Differently Abled Persons who remain unemployed for more than a year after registering with the employment exchange. The assistance is given depending on their educational qualification for a period of 10 years or till they get employment, whichever is earlier.

**Table 10**  
**Unemployment Allowance**

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Educational Qualification</b>    | <b>Allowance Per month (in ₹.)</b> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.            | 10 <sup>th</sup> Standard Completed | 600/-                              |
| 2.            | 12 <sup>th</sup> Standard Completed | 750/-                              |
| 3.            | Degree Completed                    | 1000/-                             |

During the year 2023-2024, a sum of ₹.851.00 lakh was utilised to benefit 3290 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹.1400.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

#### **15.4. Providing Interest free loan assistance for the Differently Abled Persons to get House allotment**

Interest free bank loan assistance scheme was introduced in order to enable the differently abled persons to avail interest-free bank loan upto a maximum of ₹.1.50 lakh towards beneficiary's contribution for the house allocated by the Government in the financial year 2023-24. A sum of ₹.120 lakh was allocated to the Managing Director, Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank to implement this scheme to benefit 1000 persons annually. Through this scheme, interest free loan is provided to the beneficiaries for a period of 5 years.

A sum of ₹.120.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **15.5. Marriage Assistance**

In order to promote social inclusion of the differently abled persons, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing various schemes. One among them is providing marriage assistance to the differently abled persons.

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to a differently abled person or a normal person who is willing to marry a differently abled person.

Under this scheme, a 8 gram gold coin is given to make 'Thirumangalyam' and ₹.25,000/- is given as cash assistance to the couple. If any one person of the couple is a graduate or a diploma

holder, a sum of ₹.50,000/- is provided as cash assistance.

Earlier this scheme was introduced to encourage a normal person to marry a visually impaired. Subsequently the scheme was extended to the hearing impaired and the locomotor affected persons. Now it covers all categories of differently abled.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.670.26 lakh was incurred to benefit 537 couples in three phases.

A sum of ₹.717.73 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **15.6.Travel concession**

### **15.6.1 Hundred percent Free Travel concession (with Bus pass)**

Free travel has been permitted in Government owned buses for the differently abled persons from their residence to the places where they go to pursue education, employment, vocational training, medical or therapeutic treatment by obtaining bus pass. Free travel is also permitted within the cities of the State in white board town buses for the differently abled persons along with escorts.

The visually impaired persons are permitted to travel in the mofussil buses without any condition upto 100 kilometers distance from their residence. During the year 2023-24, 35,294 Differently Abled Persons benefitted under this scheme.

### **15.6.2 Seventy five percent travel concession**

All categories of differently abled persons are permitted to travel individually or with an escort, without any condition and distance limit from their residence within the State with 75% concession in all Government buses except A/C buses.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.6956.43 lakh was spent for 13.80 lakh trips undertaken by Differently abled persons across the State.

A sum of ₹.8,925.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **16. Schemes for Socio-Economic Empowerment of Differently Abled Persons**

To empower the differently abled persons with equal rights and a dignified life, four percent of jobs in Government and Private sectors was

reserved for the Differently abled persons. In this regard, suitable posts are being identified and differently abled persons are being appointed in Government, Government Undertakings and Institutions. Job fairs are conducted by private institutions and placements are being provided for the differently abled persons. High Level Committees have been formed to monitor the employment opportunities provided in Government and private sector in this regard.

The High Level Committee and its sub-committees were constituted to submit a report for providing four percent reservation in promotion for the differently abled employees in Government sector.

To promote self-employment, Bank loans are provided and reservation is given while allotting shops in commercial complexes of the local bodies.

A monitoring committee was constituted and is functioning under the chairmanship of the



Chief Secretary to Government to facilitate the identification of jobs in the private sector for the employment of differently abled persons.

**16.1. Incentive scheme to provide assistance to differently abled persons who appear for UPSC and TNPSC Group-I mains examinations**

Under this scheme, ₹.50,000/- is provided for the differently abled candidates who qualify to appear for main examination conducted for selection of post under UPSC and TNPSC Group-I.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.4.50 lakh was incurred to benefit nine differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹.4.50 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **16.2. Equal opportunity policy**

Section 21 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 stipulates that an Equal Opportunity Policy has to be notified by the Public and Private Establishments for providing accessibility in the work place and job opportunities for differently abled persons. This department monitors the adherence to this law by public and private establishments for issuing notifications on Equal Opportunity Policy.

## **16.3. National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)**

The differently abled persons are provided loan assistance to start self-employment by the Government of India through the channelizing agency Tamil Nadu State Central Co-operative bank. If the repayment is done within the stipulated period, the interest is borne by the State Government for differently abled persons for the loan assistance.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.5,444.00 lakh was incurred as loan assistance to benefit 11,525 differently abled persons.

#### **16.4. Financial assistance to start micro enterprises**

To encourage self-employment among differently abled persons, loan assistance is given through banks to start Micro Enterprises. A subsidy of ₹.25,000/- or one third of the loan amount sanctioned whichever is lower, is provided.

Since 2022-23, to benefit persons affected with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Muscular Dystrophy, assistance is extended to the parents of these categories of differently abled persons and a subsidy of ₹.15,000/- or one fifth of the loan amount sanctioned, whichever is lower is provided.

A Government Order was issued permitting differently abled street hawkers and pushcart

vendors to run their business in urban areas on a priority basis, through town vending committee of local bodies.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.538.27 lakh was incurred for the benefit of 2,316 differently abled persons under this scheme.

A sum of ₹.500.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **16.5. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)**

As a part of this Government of India livelihood scheme by name PMEGP for promoting self-employment, beneficiaries are given loan assistance through the nationalised banks. When the eligible beneficiary is a differently abled person, under this scheme, the State Government provides the 5 percent beneficiary contribution

which otherwise would have to be paid by the Differently Abled Persons.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.8.91 lakh was incurred for the benefit of 62 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹.5.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **16.6. Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme (UYEGP)**

The District Industries Centres under the MSME Department, runs UYEGP to provide employment opportunities for unemployed youth. Under UYEGP, loan assistance is given when an eligible entrepreneur beneficiary contributes his/her contribution of 5% of the accepted project cost. The State Government provides the above said 5% beneficiary contribution under UYEGP when the beneficiary is a Differently Abled Youth.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.10.76 lakh was incurred for the benefit of 76 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹.10.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **16.7. Financial assistance to set-up Aavin Parlour**

During the year 2018-19, the scheme of providing a financial assistance of ₹.25,000/- to 100 beneficiaries for establishing Aavin Parlour was introduced. Subsequently, the amount was enhanced to ₹.50,000/-, covering 200 beneficiaries. Since 2020-21, this amount was utilized by the differently abled persons for making security deposit and procuring milk products.

To enhance their income further, the differently abled persons were exempted from paying rent and advances while establishing the

Aavin Parlour in the Government premises owned by the Public Works Department and the Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.55.00 lakh was incurred for the benefit of 110 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹.100.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **16.8. Book Binder Training**

Book-binder training is being conducted for the visually impaired students who completed 12<sup>th</sup> standard. The training is provided at the Government Higher Secondary School for the visually challenged at Poonamallee. The students are given a stipend of ₹.300/- with free accommodation during the training period.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.0.66 lakh was incurred for the benefit of 22 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹.0.66 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **16.9. Multimedia and Digital Photography Training**

About 250 beneficiaries are given a short term training of one month through the National Film development Corporation of India in Chennai. Multimedia and Digital Photography trade, Pro-Digital, Final Cut Pro-Digital Non-Linear Editing (FCP-DNLE), AVID- Digital Non-linear Editing, Digital Still Photography, Audio Engineering, Animation etc., courses are provided to the locomotor affected and hearing impaired.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.34.88 lakh was incurred to benefit 250 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹.37.10 Lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.



## **16.10. Fitter training**

A two-year skill training on fitter trade is being provided to Hearing impaired persons at the Government Industrial Training Institute, Guindy with an intake of 20 beneficiaries per year.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.0.72 Lakh was incurred to benefit 20 differently abled persons.

A sum of ₹.1.00 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

## **16.11. Five percent Allocation of shops in the commercial complexes**

During the year 2023-24, Government Orders and circulars have been issued by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department for allocating five percent of total

number of shops for the Differently abled persons in the commercial complexes developed by the rural and urban local bodies.

## **17. State Awards**

The State Government honours the individuals and the Institutions with the following State Awards every year for recognising their services for the Differently Abled persons. This is done on two occasions: on August 15<sup>th</sup>, during the Independence Day celebrations and on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the International Day for the Differently Abled.

**Table 11**  
**State Level Award conferred on the**  
**Independence Day**

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Name of the Award</b>   | <b>Number of Awards</b> | <b>Details of the Award</b>                                      |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| 1.            | Best Institution Award for the private Institution that has employed the maximum number of Differently Abled Persons | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate                           |
| 2.            | Best Institution Award for the Institution providing various services to Differently Abled Persons                   | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal, Cash Prize of ₹.50,000/- and a Certificate |
| 3.            | Best Social Worker Award for outstanding work done for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons                      | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate                           |

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Name of the Award</b>  | <b>Number of Awards</b> | <b>Details of the Award</b>                                      |
|---------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| 4.            | Best Doctor Award   | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate                           |
| 5.            | Best Collector Award  | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal, Cash Prize of ₹.25,000/- and a Certificate |
| 6.            | Best bank award for the District Co-operative Bank for providing the maximum amount of loan | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate                           |

₹.8.33 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate of 2024-25 for these awards.

**Table 12**  
**State Level Annual Award conferred on the**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> of December, the International Day**  
**of Persons with Disabilities**

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Name of the Award</b>          | <b>Number of Awards</b> | <b>Details of the Award</b>                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1.            | Best Institution                  | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate                  |
| 2.            | Best Social Worker                | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate                  |
| 3.            | Best Teacher (3 categories)       | 3 Awards                | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each awardee |
| 4.            | Best Employee/self-employer Award | 10 Awards               | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each awardee |

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Name of the Award</b>   | <b>Number of Awards</b> | <b>Details of the Award</b>                                 |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| 5.            | Best Employer Award for employing maximum number of Differently Abled Persons                            | 1 Award                 | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate                      |
| 6.            | Best EIC Teacher   | 2 Awards                | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each awardee     |
| 7.            | Best Driver and Best Conductor Award   | 2 Awards                | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each awardee     |
| 8.            | Best Government and Private institution that has an accessible environment for Differently Abled Persons | 2 Awards                | A 10 Gram Gold Medal and a Certificate for each institution |
| <b>Total</b>  |  | <b>22 Awards</b>        |   |

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.63.78 lakh was incurred and in the financial year 2024-25, a sum of ₹.119.50 lakh is allocated for these awards.

### **18. Tamil Nadu Welfare Board**

In the year 2007, Tamil Nadu Government constituted Tamil Nadu Welfare Board. In the year 2022, the Board was reconstituted under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Minister for Social Welfare and Women Empowerment with new members. With an objective of ensuring social security benefits to the Differently Abled Persons and their family, members above the age of 10 years are enrolled in the welfare board at the District Differently Abled Welfare Office. After enrolment, the members are eligible to avail scholarship for their wards, marriage assistance, financial assistance for the purchase of spectacles, maternity assistance, personal accident relief including compensation for the death due to

accident and natural death including assistance to perform funeral, etc.,

In the financial year 2023-24, the amount of assistance has been doubled, for the scheme such as accident relief, medical assistance, scholarships, etc., with the increased allocation of ₹.200.00 lakh. The details of assistance provided by the welfare board are given below.

**Table 13**  
**Details of Tamil Nadu Welfare Board**  
**Assistances**

|   |  | Personal Accident Relief  |                  |
|---|--|---|------------------|
| 1 | (a)  | Death due to Accident   | ₹.2,00,000/<br>- |
|   | (b)  | Loss of Hand, or Leg, or sight in both eyes and total loss              | ₹.2,00,000/<br>- |
|   | (c)  | Loss of one hand or one leg or sight in one eye or total loss of Vision | ₹.50,000/-       |
| 2 | Financial Assistance to meet the Funeral Expense |   | ₹.2,000/-        |



|     |  |   |            |
|-----|--|---|------------|
| 3   | Natural Death of Differently Abled Persons                               |   | ₹.15,000/- |
| 4   | Annual Scholarships to the Son and Daughter of Differently Abled Persons |   |            |
| (a) | i.   | Daughter studying SSLC  | ₹.2,000/-  |
|     | ii   | Son and Daughter who cleared SSLC   | ₹.2,000/-  |
| (b) | i.   | Daughter studying 11 <sup>th</sup> Standard or equivalent   | ₹.2,000/-  |
| (c) | i.   | Daughter studying 12 <sup>th</sup> Standard or equivalent   | ₹.3,000/-  |
|     | ii.  | Son and Daughter who cleared 12 <sup>th</sup> Standard or equivalent examination                            | ₹.3,000/-  |
| (d) | i.   | Son and Daughter studying Under Graduation Course   | ₹.3,000/-  |
|     | ii.  | Son and Daughter studying Under Graduation Course and staying in Hostel                                     | ₹.3,500/-  |
|     | iii.   | Son and Daughter studying Post Graduation Course  | ₹.4,000/-  |
|     | iv.  | Son and Daughter studying Post Graduation Course and staying in Hostel                                      | ₹.6,000/-  |
| (e) | i.   | Son and Daughter studying Law, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science or equivalent Professional Courses | ₹.5,000/-  |

|     |  |   |            |
|-----|--|---|------------|
|     | ii.  | Son and Daughter studying Professional Course and staying in Hostel                                     | ₹.6,000/-  |
|     | iii.   | Son and Daughter studying in Professional Post Graduation Courses                                       | ₹.6,000/-  |
|     | iv.  | Son and Daughter studying Professional PG course and staying in Hostel                                  | ₹.8,000/-  |
| (f) | i.   | Son and Daughter studying in Vocational Training Institutes or Technical Colleges                       | ₹.2,000/-  |
|     | ii.  | Son and Daughter studying in Vocational Training Institutes or Technical Colleges and staying in hostel | ₹.2,500/-  |
| 5   | Marriage Assistance (Either to Husband or Wife)      |   | ₹.2,000/-  |
| 6   | Financial Assistance for delivery for female members |   |            |
|     | (a)  | Pregnancy   | ₹.6,000/-  |
|     | (b)  | Miscarriage of Pregnancy  | ₹.3,000/-  |
|     | (c)  | Caesarean section   | ₹.9,000/-  |
| 7   | Assistance for Alpha Beds                            |   | ₹. 6,000/- |
| 8   | Financial Assistance for the purchase of Spectacles  |   | ₹.500/-    |

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.529.62 lakh was incurred for 4,026 beneficiaries.

A sum of ₹.529.62 lakh is provided in the Budget Estimate for the year 2024-25 for this scheme.

### **19. Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme**

Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, the differently abled persons and their family members can get medical treatment up-to ₹.5.00 lakh. Under this scheme medical care interventions are given for the children affected with Autism also. Further, the scheme is expected to be extended to Muscular Dystrophy, Intellectual Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Specific learning disabilities, Hearing impairment and multiple disabilities. Artificial Limbs are also given under the scheme.

## **20. Rights Project**

The Rights Project is being implemented from 2022 onwards by the Government of Tamil Nadu to promote the rights of Differently Abled Persons and accessibility and opportunities for the Differently Abled Persons. The project aims to provide healthcare, social care and welfare services to differently abled persons at the household and community level. The project will be operational for 6 years with a budget allocation of ₹.1773.87 Crores supported by the World Bank. The creation of Social Registry Platform was initiated under the project by consolidating the details of Differently Abled Persons. Steps are being taken to establish One Stop Social Care Centres for delivering integrated rehabilitation services for differently abled persons.

Action is being taken at the district level to develop infrastructure facilities, recruiting rehabilitation staff, identifying community service

providers, procurement of mobile therapy units and therapeutic appliances.

Socio-economic empowerment of Differently Abled Persons, through collaboration with private sector to provide skill training and job placement is also envisaged under the Rights project.

In order to create barrier-free environment for the differently abled persons, access audits of public buildings are carried out and capacity building training for officers concerned are being imparted.

To monitor the project activities and to coordinate the services of line departments, Committees were formed at both State and District level. A Standard Operating Procedure was formulated for integrating all services to children below 18 years, provided by Departments such as Social Welfare, Health and Family Welfare and School Education.

In the project, consultants and project staff were engaged on contract basis at State and District level. Efforts are also being taken up to converge activities with the field staff of various line Departments, such as Health and Family Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Municipal Administration and Water Supply, School Education, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Departments.

In the financial year 2023-24, an expenditure of ₹.1700.00 lakh was incurred for establishing One Stop Social Care Centre, providing salary and training for Social Registry Enrolment and mobile outreach therapy vehicles.

## **21. Special Initiatives**

As a prequel to the International Day for persons with disabilities, for the year 2023, cultural activities for the children with disabilities were arranged to promote inclusiveness and create

awareness in the society. As a part of the initiative, the children from Government Special Schools were taken on a trip to Mahabalipuram in air conditioned buses on the aegis of the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation. A trip by aeroplane from Tiruchirappalli to Chennai was organised for the visually impaired students from the Government Special School, Tiruchirappalli. The children were also given an experience of a ride on Chennai Metro Rail. A movie was screened exclusively for them in a cinema.

## **22. Government of India Schemes**

### **22.1. Unique Disability Identity Card**

The Government of India issues the Unique Disability Identity Cards since 2017. The cards are being generated in the UDID portal after uploading the disability certificate. These cards are issued with unique identification numbers valid across the

country and ensure that the differently abled persons to get access to all relevant services.

These cards have been issued to differently abled persons based on the direct applications at the District Differently Abled Welfare Office and online processing in UDID portal or through special medical camps. 8,05,919 identity cards were generated as on 30.04.2024.

## **22.2.Fitting of Assistive Devices for the Differently Abled Persons under ADIP Scheme**

The Assistive Devices are provided directly to the differently abled persons through Special Camps held by the District Administration. A proposal is submitted by NGOs or District Administration or the Members of Parliament to the Government of India and upon approval, camps are organized for providing assistive devices.

During the year 2023-24, camps have been conducted in 18 Districts, to benefit 8,586



differently abled persons with an expenditure of ₹.928.23 lakh.

### **22.3. Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)**

This scheme is implemented to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services for the differently abled persons through NGOs, based on the recommendations of the State Government. Under this scheme, the persons affected with multiple disabilities, persons cured of leprosy, locomotor disability, intellectual disability and visual impairment are provided special education, rehabilitation training and other maintenance services.

During the year 2023-24, 17 NGOs applied to provide services under this scheme and a proposal seeking a financial assistance of ₹.391.25 lakh was forwarded to Government of India.

#### **22.4. Accessible India Campaign –Awareness generation programme on Accessibility (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**

Forty nine buildings in Chennai and Coimbatore were selected under Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan programme in Tamil Nadu, for providing accessibility features in buildings for the differently abled persons in order to generate awareness on the need to provide such features. The Government of India released ₹.4608.95 lakh to construct the barrier free features in 30 buildings and civil work is going on in these buildings. Funds are being pursued for the remaining buildings.

With the contribution from the State Government, access audits was conducted in 74 buildings in Chennai at a cost of ₹.12.45 lakh. A similar exercise was done in 176 buildings of 10 cities across the State, at a cost of ₹.44.84 lakh.

This scheme aims at creating barrier free structures for differently abled persons such as ramps and handrails, accessible lifts, accessible

toilets, tactile floors and braille signages in public buildings.

### **22.5.National Scholarship for the Students with Disabilities**

The Government of India provides educational scholarships to the differently abled students. The students of 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard whose parent's annual income does not exceed ₹.2.5 lakh and undergraduate / Diploma students whose parents annual income does not exceed ₹.6.00 lakh, are eligible to apply.

Under the National Scholarship scheme, 4,748 applications have been forwarded to the Government of India. Out of these applications, 3,038 differently abled students have received scholarship amounting to ₹.484.97 lakh during the year 2023-24.

**Table 14**  
**National Scholarship**

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Scheme</b>   | <b>Scholarship Amount (in ₹.)</b> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1              | Pre- Matric<br>9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Standard | ₹. 9,000/- to<br>₹.14,600/-       |
| 2              | Post – Matric<br>Graduate level                             | ₹. 10,100/- to<br>₹.1,74,700/-    |
| 3              | Top – Class<br>Higher Education /<br>Professional course    | ₹. 47,000/- to<br>₹.3,40,000/-    |

### **23. Conclusion**

The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking steps to help the Differently Abled lead a dignified life with equal rights in an inclusive society. This Government through its unrelenting efforts, aims to ensure comprehensive rehabilitation services to the differently abled persons.

**M.K.STALIN**  
**CHIEF MINISTER**

**Table 15**  
**Scheme wise Allocation for the Year**  
**2024-2025**

| <b>Sl. No</b> | <b>Services / Sector</b>   | <b>Amount (₹. in Lakh)</b> | <b>Percent age of Allocation</b> |
|---------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.            | Prevention and Early Intervention                                  | 1,552.01                   | 1.12                             |
| 2.            | Special Education  | 8,817.95                   | 6.35                             |
| 3.            | Employment and Vocational Training                                 | 617.39                     | 0.45                             |
| 4.            | Social Security (Maintenance Allowance and Free travel Concession) | 80,517.80                  | 57.96                            |
| 5.            | Aids and Appliances  | 6,336.89                   | 4.56                             |
| 6.            | Barrier Free Structure and Other Infrastructure                    | 2,226.35                   | 1.60                             |
| 7.            | Rights Project   | 27,553.21                  | 19.83                            |
| 8.            | Others (Salary Administrative Expenses)                            | 11,294.84                  | 8.13                             |
|               | <b>Total</b>   | <b>1,38,916.44</b>         | <b>100.00</b>                    |



Corner Chair provided for children with Cerebral Palsy



Electronic Braille Reader

## Battery Operated Wheel Chair



Distribution of Retro fitted two wheelers to differently abled persons by the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu



Children from Government special schools taken on a trip to Mahabalipuram as part of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.





Children from Government special school were taken on a flight trip from Tiruchirappalli to Chennai as part of International Day of Persons with Disabilities

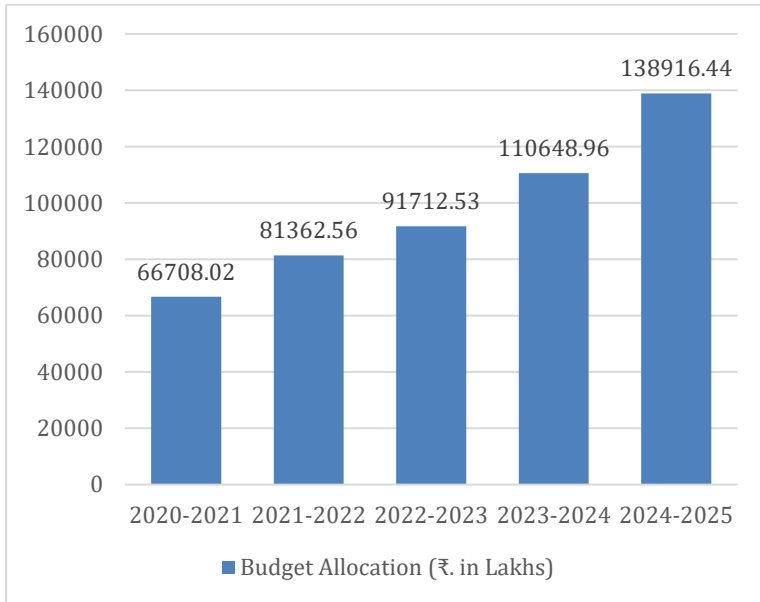


Children from Government special schools were taken for a ride on Chennai Metro Rail as part of International Day of Persons with Disabilities

## Budget Allocation from the year 2020-21 to 2024-25

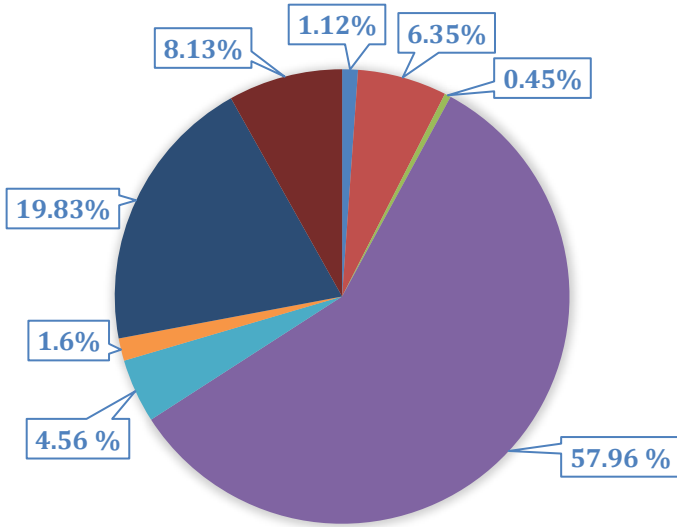
| S. No | Financial Year | Budget Allocation (₹. in Lakhs) |
|-------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1     | 2020-2021      | 66708.02                        |
| 2     | 2021-2022      | 81362.56                        |
| 3     | 2022-2023      | 91712.53                        |
| 4     | 2023-2024      | 110648.96                       |
| 5     | 2024-2025      | 138916.44                       |

## Budget Allocation from the year 2020-21 to 2024-25



## Budget Allocation for the Year of 2024-2025 (In Percentage)

### PERCENTAGE OF ALLOCATION



- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Special Education
- Employment and Vocational Training
- Social Security (Maintenance Allowance and Free travel Concession)
- Aids and Appliances
- Barrier Free Structure and Other Infrastructure
- Rights Project
- Others (Salary Administrative Expenses)