

**TAMIL DEVELOPMENT, RELIGIOUS
ENDOWMENTS AND INFORMATION
DEPARTMENT**

**HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE
ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT**

DEMAND NO.47

POLICY NOTE

2010-2011

INTRODUCTION

The Phrase “ஒன்றே குலம் ஒருவனே தேவன்”, meaning “**one God and one Community**”, reveals the egalitarian society of life lead by the ancient Tamils, who built the Temples which are still remaining beyond their limited descriptions as mere worshipping places and religious institutions as the treasures of our culture.

Temples constructed by the Kings and Philanthropists who had a divine feeling and soul for contributions are standing as the archeological

and historical symbols revealing the culture, history and the sense of arts of our ancient Tamils.

Temples are the treasury of all aesthetics such as literature, music, dance, architecture, sculpture and painting.

In order to hail the glory of the mother tongue Tamil which is more than their Lives for the Tamils who lived with the noble idea that birth is equal to all as revealed in the phrase “**பிறப்பொக்கும் எல்லா உயிர்க்கும்**” our Tamil Nadu Government is convening the World Tamil Classical Language Conference at Coimbatore. This Government is further committed to services, such as, protecting the priceless properties of the Temples having artistic and historical importance, maintaining the temples, causing no decline in their traditional and ancient values, conducting daily poojas and festivals, carrying out proper renovations, kumbabishekams, implementing welfare schemes that provide necessary facilities for the devotees visiting the temples.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Advisory Committee has been constituted by the Government as provided in the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959 to render advice to the Government on the subjects related to religious and Charitable institutions in Tamil Nadu. The Advisory committee is headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister having the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments as the Vice Chairman along with the following members:

Official Members

Secretary to Government, ... Member

Tamil Development, Religious
Endowments and Information
Department

Commissioner, ... Member /

Hindu Religious and Charitable
Endowments Department
Secretary

Non - Official Members

1. His Holiness Deivasigamani Ponnambala
Desiga Adigalar, Adheenakartha, Kundrakudi,
Thiruvannamalai Atheenam.
2. His Holiness Thiruppananthal Madadhipathy
Sirvalarseer Muthukumaraswamy Thambiran,
Thiruppananthal.
3. His Holiness Sivapragasa Pandara
Sannathigal, Thiruvavaduthurai
Adheenakartha, Thiruvavaduthurai.
4. His Holiness Srimath Andavan Swamigal,
Thiruvarangam.
5. His Holiness Santhalinga Ramaswamy
Adigalar, Perur.
6. Thirumathi. Soundara Kailasam, Chennai.
7. Thirumathi. A.S.Ponnammal, Ex. M.L.A.,
8. Thiru. Karumuthu Kannan, Industrialist,
Madurai.
9. Thiru. S.V. Balasubramaniam, Industrialist,
Coimbatore.

Special Invitee

A representative of His Holiness
Dharmapuram Adheenakartha.

Based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Government Orders have been issued, to reduce the rent for residential sites and buildings as half, and to reduce the periodical increase of rent for every three years from 33.3 percentage to 15 percentage and enhancing the annual Government Grant for temple renovation as Rs.3 Crores. Further based on the orders issued, steps have been taken to entrust the aged and ailing four Temple elephants to the Forest Department for maintenance.

In the meeting held on 12.12.2009, the Advisory Committee has decided to increase the tenure of the non-hereditary trustees appointed under section 47 and 49 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act in the temples from one year to two years, to constitute a Committee headed by a Retired Judge of the Hon'ble High Court to make necessary amendments in the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act considering the amendments made in the Tamil Nadu Hindu

Religious and Charitable Endowments Act and Rules enacted in the year 1959, without changing its basic structure and to submit its recommendations through the Commissioner to the Advisory Committee for its decision, and also to request the Government to issue necessary orders for fixing the maximum court fee as Rs.100/- (Rupees Hundred only) in the declaratory suits filed to recover the temple properties.

Based on these decisions an amendment extending the tenure of the trust board of the temples to two years has been made. The Government has issued G.O.(Ms)No.363 Home (Courts – VI-A) Department dated 9.4.2010 fixing the maximum court fee as Rs.100/- for the declaratory suits filed to recover the temple properties. Action has been initiated to form a Committee headed by Retired Judge of Hon'ble High Court to examine the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 and Rules and to suggest amendments.

HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

There are 38,481 religious institutions such as temples, mutts, kattalais and Jain temples under the administrative control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department as detailed below:-

1.	Temples	36,441
2.	Mutts	56
3.	Temples attached to Mutts	57
4.	Specific Endowments	1,721
5.	Charitable Endowments	189
6.	Jain temples	17
	TOTAL	38,481

The above religious institutions are classified on the basis of income as given below:-

1.	Notified Non-listed institutions: with an annual income of less than Rs.10,000	34,267
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2.	Notified Institutions published in the list:	
	(i) Falling under Section 46(i), with an annual income of more than Rs.10,000 but less than Rs.2 lakh.	3,535
	(ii) Falling under Section 46(ii), with an annual income of more than Rs.2 lakh but less than Rs. 10 lakh.	498
	(iii) Falling under section 46(iii), with an annual income of more than Rs.10 lakh.	181
	Total	38,481

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE HINDU RELIGIOUS
AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS
DEPARTMENT**

The Administrative Head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is the Commissioner. He is appointed from the Indian Administrative Service. Out of the total sanctioned strength of the employees in various categories of this department i.e. 2405 including Commissioner, other Officers, Subordinate Officers, Executive Officers, Officers on Foreign Service, Office Assistants, Watchmen, Sweepers, etc., there

are 1348 employees at present. Necessary actions are being taken to fill up the remaining posts.

ADMINISTRATION AT THE HEADQUARTERS

The Commissioner is assisted at the Head Quarters by Additional Commissioner (General), Additional Commissioner (Enquiry), Joint Commissioner (Head Quarters), Joint Commissioner (Thiruppani), Deputy Commissioner (Legal Cell), to monitor legal affairs, Deputy Commissioner (Educational Institutions), Assistant Commissioner (Legal cell) and Assistant Commissioner (verification) (Headquarters) to appraise the Gold, Silver and other valuables and for special works in the Religious Institutions. There is also an Editor for "Thirukkoil", monthly Magazine published by this Department.

For monitoring Temple renovation and to scrutinize the estimates, an Engineering Wing consisting of Superintending Engineer, Executive

Engineer, Assistant Divisional Engineer, Assistant Engineers and Draftsmen are working at the Head quarters. The Officers of this Wing are posted on deputation from Public Works Department or Highways Department. In addition, by G.O.Ms. No. 351 Tamil Development Religious Endowment and Information Department dated 27.11.2009 an Assistant Engineer (Civil), an Assistant Engineer (Electrical) and Junior Draftsman posts have been created.

In order to identify the properties of the religious institutions and for removing the encroachment of land and to establish the rights of the temples over the temple lands, a Land Section consisting of two Special Officers in the cadre of District Revenue Officer is functioning at the Head Quarters assisting the Commissioner.

A Senior Accounts Officer and an Assistant Accounts Officer from the Treasuries and Accounts Department are supervising the Accounts Section of this Department. An Audit Wing is functioning

headed by an Officer from the Department of Finance as the Chief Audit Officer to audit the accounts of the religious institutions. Further, a Village Temple Poosarigal Welfare Board has been formed having 6 newly created posts including an Assistant Commissioner to protect the welfare of the Village Poosarigal.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF REGION AND DIVISION

Originally there were 10 Joint Commissioner's Office and 22 Assistant Commissioner's Office in the administrative set up. With an intention to make the welfare scheme to reach the public this Government after assuming office expanded the administrative setup into 11 Regions each headed by a Joint Commissioner and 27 divisions headed by an Assistant Commissioner, as detailed below:-

Sl. No	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
1.	Joint Commissioner, Chennai	1. Assistant Commissioner, Chennai.	Chennai District
2.	Joint Commissioner, Vellore	2. Assistant Commissioner, Thiruvallur	Thiruvallur District.
		3. Assistant Commissioner, Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram District.
		4. Assistant Commissioner, Vellore.	Vellore District.
3.	Joint Commissioner, Salem.	5. Assistant Commissioner, Dharmapuri.	Dharmapuri, & Krishnagiri Districts
		6. Assistant Commissioner, Salem.	Salem District
		7. Assistant Commissioner, Namakkal	Namakkal District

4.	Joint Commissioner, Coimbatore.	8. Assistant Commissioner, Coimbatore.	Coimbatore, Nilgiris Districts and Avinashi, Udumalpet, Tiruppur Taluks in Tiruppur District
		9. Assistant Commissioner, Erode.	Erode District, Dharapuram, Kangeyam Taluks in Tiruppur District
5.	Joint Commissioner, Thanjavur.	10. Assistant Commissioner, Thanjavur.	Thanjavur District (Except Thiruvudaimarudur and Kumbakonam Taluks)
		11. Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam.	Nagapattinam District (Except Sirkali, Mayiladuthurai and Tharangambadi Taluks)
		12. Assistant Commissioner, Thiruvarur	Thiruvarur District

6.	Joint Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	13. Assistant Commissioner, Kumbakonam.	Thiruvaidaimaruthur, Kumbakonam Taluks in Thanjavur District. Mayiladuthurai, Sirkali and Tharangambadi Taluks in Nagapattinam District.
7.	Joint Commissioner, Villupuram.	14. Assistant Commissioner, Cuddalore.	Cuddalore District.
		15. Assistant Commissioner, Villupuram.	Villupuram District.
		16. Assistant Commissioner, Thiruvannamalai	Thiruvannamalai District.
8.	Joint Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli.	17. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli.	Tiruchirappalli District
		18. Assistant Commissioner, Ariyalur.	Perambalur and Ariyalur Districts.
		19. Assistant Commissioner, Pudukottai.	Pudukottai District.

		20. Assistant Commissioner, Karur.	Karur District.
9.	Joint Commissioner, Madurai.	21. Assistant Commissioner, Madurai.	Madurai District.
		22. Assistant Commissioner, Dindigul.	Dindigul and Theni Districts.
10.	Joint Commissioner, Sivagangai.	23. Assistant Commissioner, Virudhunagar.	Virudhunagar District.
		24. Assistant Commissioner, Paramakudi.	Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram Districts.
11.	Joint Commissioner, Tirunelveli.	25. Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli.	Tirunelveli District
		26. Assistant Commissioner, Thoothukudi.	Thoothukudi District
		27. Assistant Commissioner, Nagercoil.	Kanniyakumari District

Besides, there are 196 Inspectors serving at the Taluk level.

To assist the Joint Commissioner/ Executive Officer of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani there is a Deputy Commissioner and a Personal Assistant in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner. Five Personal Assistant Posts in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner have been created to the temples for Tiruchendur, Madurai, Srirangam, Rameshwaram and Tiruttani.

Further Six posts of Verification Officers in the cadre of Deputy Commissioner and four posts of Verification Officers in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner are in the Office. To audit the accounts of the religious institutions at district level, an audit Wing is functioning comprising of Regional Audit Officers and Assistant Audit Officers.

In every Joint Commissioner's Office there is an Assistant Divisional Engineer and a Draftsman and in every Assistant Commissioner's office there is an Assistant Engineer to undertake renovation works. Apart from this following new posts have

been created in the Engineering Wing as per G.O.Ms. No.351 Tamil Development Religious Endowment and Information Department, dated 27.11.2009:-

1. Three posts of Executive Engineers for the Joint Commissioner's Division at Trichy, Salem and Madurai, one post of Assistant Executive Engineer for Villupuram Joint Commissioner's Office, five posts of Assistant Engineers (Civil) in the Assistant Commissioner's Office for Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur, Karur , Ariyalur and Namakkal and three posts of Assistant Engineers (Electrical) for Joint Commissioner's Division Trichy, Salem and Madurai have been created.

2. In order to carry out the Tiruppani works at Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Salem Joint Commissioner's Division, four Senior Draftsman posts have been created at Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple Tiruttani, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Samayapuram, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple Madurai,

Arulmigu Vazhaithottathu Ayyan Temple.
Ayyampalayam,

3. In order to carry out the Tiruppani works at Joint Commissioner's Division of Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Salem four Draftsman posts have been created at Arulmigu Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple Sholingar, Arulmigu Thayumanaswamy Temple, Rockfort, Trichy, Arulmigu Kallalagar Temple, Azhagarkoil, Arulmigu Narasimha swamy Temple, Nammakkal.

TEMPLE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following posts of the Executive Officers are there to take care of the administration of the Temples :-

S. No.	Cadre	No. of posts
1	Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer	10
2	Deputy Commissioner / Executive Officer	10
3	Asst. Commissioner/ Executive Officer	27
4	Executive Officer-Grade I	66
5	Executive Officer-Grade II	112
6	Executive Officer-Grade III	250
7	Executive Officer-Grade IV	154
	Total	629

HOLY MUTTS

An Audit Section consisting of a Regional Audit Officer, two Audit Inspectors, and two Assistants are functioning in the Head Quarters to supervise the administration of 56 Mutts under the control of the Department and 19 specific endowment attached thereto.

PERSONS FROM ALL COMMUNITIES CAN BECOME ARCHAKAS

It is unfair to discriminate one's community as a qualification for performing poojas for God at places of public worship. Based on this ideology a Government Order has been issued declaring that Hindus of all communities may become Archakas in Hindu Temples if they possess the required qualifications and necessary training. On this basis four Saiva Archaka training institutes have been started in Tamil Nadu at Madurai, Palani, Thiruchendur and Tiruvannamalai and two Vaishnava Archaka training institutes have been started at Chennai and Srirangam. Totally 207

students including 34 Scheduled castes students, 76 backward Classes students, 55 Most Backward Classes students have completed the one year “Junior Archaka Certificate” course and have received the certificates.

DUE PLACE FOR TAMIL IN TEMPLES

All the Tamil Savants had prayed in their enchanting verses only in Tamil in praise of God in temples where they visited. Thirumandiram, Devaram, Thiruvagasam, Nalayira Divyaprabandam, Thirupugaz etc., rendered by the Savants have helped for the growth of the Tamil language.

This Government have taken several steps to fulfill the wishes of the public and devotees to Worship in Tamil in the temples and to make Tamil to reverberate in the Holy shrines forever. Many Religious discourses and Music recitals are organized to be performed in Tamil. To perform Archana for the deities in Tamil , “Archanai Potri” books have been published . To encourage the Archakas performing Archanai in Tamil, prizes have

been announced. Accordingly, district wise such Archakas performing Archanai in Tamil in the best manner are identified and rewarded . Further, in order to make the devotees aware of this facility of having their worship by performing archanai in Tamil in temples, placards containing phrases such as “Archanai is performed in Tamil” are displayed in temples at places where the devotees may easily notice.

Chidambaram Arulmigu Sabanayagar (Natarajar) Temple is considered as the Abode for “Tamil Thirumuraigal”. With a view to revive the practice of reciting Tamil Thirumurai in this temple after many years a statutory order has been issued. Following this Tamil Thirumuraigal are now recited by devotees in the Chidambaram Arulmigu Sabanayagar (Natarajar) Temple from 2.03.2008. This event has received worldwide appreciation from the Tamils and the religious people.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN CHIDAMBARAM TEMPLE

In the interest of the world famous Chidambaram Arulmighu Sabanayagar (Natarajar) Temple and in the interest of the public, an Executive Officer was appointed under section 45(1) of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959. The Order of appointment of the Executive Officer confirmed by the Government in G.O.(D) No. 168, dated 9.5.2006 was challenged by the Podhu Deekshidhars of Chidambaram before the High Court Madras in W.P.18248/2006, and the same was dismissed on 2.2.2009. Following this, the Executive Officer has taken charge of the Temple and is functioning from 2.2.2009. Further, the Writ Appeal filed by the Podhu Dikshidars against this order was also dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court on 15.9.2009. After the Executive Officer taking charge of the temple for the welfare of the devotees high Mast Lamps, drinking water facilities and other amenities have been provided with an assistance

of the Government fund at an estimated cost of Rs.34.45 lakhs. By way of regularising the hundial collections, donations from devotees and by the Prasadam sale Rupees 26 lakhs have been generated as income of the temple from 2.2.2009 within one year.

VILLAGE TEMPLE POOSARIGAL WELFARE

For the benefit of Village Poosarigal, performing Poojas in the village temples which are not under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a separate Board namely **“The Village Temple Poosarigal Welfare Board”** has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments. This Welfare Board is implementing welfare schemes for the benefit of Village Temple Poosarigal such as providing refresher training for poosarigal, Rs.500/-, for purchase of spectacles to village poosarigal, Rs.6,000/- for maternity/abortion expenses of Poosari's spouse or daughter, Rs.1,000/- to Rs.6000/- for the higher studies of the

children of the member, Rs.6000/- for marriages of Poosari or for his son/daughter, Rs.2,000/- for the funeral expenses on the death of the member, and Rs.15,000/- as financial assistance to the legal heirs. So far, 38,946 persons have been enrolled in this Welfare Board as members. Out of them 700 poosarigal have received welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.16.07 lakhs and benefited. An order has been made to raise the maximum income ceiling to receive this Welfare assistance from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.24,000/-

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES IN THE TEMPLE

In Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959, provisions have been made for the appointment of non-hereditary trustees for the proper administration of the Temples and Religious institutions. However certain temples and Religious institutions are administered by Trust Board or Schemes or by Hereditary trustees. As per the provisions of the Tamilnadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, non-hereditary trustees are

appointed according to the classification of the temples and the appointing powers have been conferred on the Government, the Commissioner, the Joint Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner as the case may be. After this Government assumed Office, it has been made compulsory that every Board of trustees should consist members among whom one shall be from Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe and one shall be a Woman member. This Board of trustees should consist of not less than three persons and not more than five persons. Accordingly, three non-hereditary trustees are appointed to the Religious Institutions by the Commissioner, Joint Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner as the case may be, depending upon the classification of the temples as per the provisions of the Act. With these, two more non-hereditary trustees will be nominated by the Government. For the temples published under section 46(iii), all non-hereditary trustees are appointed by the Government. Tenure

of Board of trustees shall be for a period of two years from the date of assuming the Office .

LANDS, BUILDINGS AND SITES BELONGING TO RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Totally 4,78,545.99 acres of Dry, Wet and Manavari lands, 22,599 buildings and 33,627 sites are owned by the religious institutions under the control of this Department as detailed below:-

Nature of the land	Temple Lands	Mutt Lands	Total Lands
	Acre-Cents	Acre-Cents	Acre-Cents
Wet	1,83,673.90	21,282.05	2,04,955.95
Dry	2,18,305.16	34,538.88	2,52,844.04
Manavari	20,746.00	--	20,746.00
Total	4,22,725.06	55,820.93	4,78,545.99

The agriculture lands owned by the Temples and Mutts are cultivated by 1,23,729 lessees. The buildings and sites belonging to the Religious Institutions are being enjoyed by 22,600 tenants and 33,665 tenants respectively.

The Temple lands measuring 135.69 acres under the control of the Hindu Religious and

Charitable Endowments Department has been sold as per the Rules in the interest of the public and Social development to the Government Schools, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Hokenekal Integrated Drinking Water Scheme, Anna University, Welfare schemes of Municipal Administration, Coastal Security Group, National Highways and Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram.

LESSEES AND REVENUE COURTS

Revenue Courts are functioning at the following places to settle the issues between the tenants on record cultivating the temple lands and the temple administration such as collection of arrears of rent, fixation of fair rent, evicting the defaulters etc., as per the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Protection Act 1955.

COURTS

- 1.Thanjavur
- 2.Tiruchirappalli
3. Mayiladuthurai
- 4.Thiruvarur
- 5.Cuddalore
6. Madurai

CAMP COURTS

- 1.Mannargudi
- 2.Kumbakonam
- 3.Salem
- 4.Thenkasi

As on 31.03.2010, 33,347 cases have been filed before the above Courts relating to an arrears of rent of Rs.33.31 crores. Out of this, 17,191 cases have been settled and an amount of Rs.14.86 crores has been ordered to be paid to the temples. 16,156 cases are still pending before these courts involving an amount of Rs.18.45 crores. Steps are being taken for the speedy enquiry in the pending cases.

STREAMLINING THE RENTS FOR BUILDINGS AND SITES BELONGING TO RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Fair rent has been fixed in respect of Buildings and Sites belonging to Temples in Tamil Nadu for the year 1999 and 2001. Considering several representations complaining the rent fixation as very high, the Government issued orders in the year 2007, reducing the fair rent of the residential sites and buildings from 0.2% to 0.1% and revising the enhancement of rent once in three years from 33.3% to 15% based on the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee.

RETRIEVAL OF TEMPLE LANDS

During the process of the Settlement and Updating of Registry, the pattas of the temple lands under the control of the temples got transferred in the name of private individuals by mistake. To rectify these defects two posts of District Revenue Officers along with supporting staff have been created at Madurai and Coimbatore as their Head quarters for disposal of the appeals filed by the Temples without delay.

Based on the powers conferred on the regular District Revenue Officers, Government order have been issued conferring powers on these Officers in the cadre of District Revenue Officers working in the HR&CE Department as Special Officers at Madurai and Coimbatore districts to rectify the errors in the U.D.R. related to temples situated within the Madurai and Coimbatore districts.

REGULARISING CLUSTER ENCROACHMENTS

A Government Order has been issued to regularize the cluster occupations of the temple lands by the persons living there, as the tenants subject to certain conditions. As per the above Orders, so far, 3570 encroachers have been regularized and tenancy rights have been conferred to them. By this action, properties fetching no income so far, are now yielding income to the temples.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND KARUNAI ILLANGAL

Considering the social welfare and with the view for developing religion, arts, Culture, education, 5 Colleges of Arts, 1 Polytechnic institution, 12 Higher Secondary schools, 10 High Schools, 3 Middle Schools, 10 Primary Schools, 1 Matriculation School, 3 Veda Agama Padasalas, 6 Devara schools, 3 Thavil – Nadaswara Schools, 6 Archaka Training Institutions (2 Vaishnavites and 4 Saivites) 34 Karunai Illangal, 6 Siddha Hospitals, 2 Allopathy Hospitals, 2 old age homes

and 1 school for the hearing impaired are run by the temples.

GRANTS FOR THE COLLEGES RUN BY THE TEMPLES

For the development of the colleges, run by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department namely Sri Parasakthi Women College, Coutralam, Devi Kumari Women College, Kuzhithurai, and Poompohar College, Melaiyur the Government has ordered for an annual financial assistance of Rs.15 lakhs to each college, for a total amount of Rs.45 lakhs from the interest accrued from the Corpus fund of Rs. 5 Crores created by diverting the surplus funds from affluent temples for providing facilities such as buildings, laboratories, libraries, Computers, Drinking water and Toilet facilities for the College Students. Accordingly steps have been taken. From the interest of this Corpus fund Rs. 13 lakhs have been granted for forming a new laboratory at Poompohar College, Melaiyur and Rs. 13 lakhs have been

granted for forming a road in College campus at Sri Parasakthi Women College, Coutralam.

GRANTS FOR THE SCHOOLS RUN BY THE TEMPLES

Considering the welfare of the students studying in 36 Schools under the control of this Department, steps have been taken for providing facilities such as Laboratories, Libraries, Computers and other basic amenities, from the interest accrued from the Corpus fund of Rs.5 Crores created by diverting from the surplus funds of affluent temples as per Government orders. From the interest of this corpus fund, financial assistance have been granted for construction of Laboratory and for providing drinking water facility at the cost of Rs. 9 lakhs to S.S.T. Higher Secondary School, Tiruvenkadu, for the construction of Science Laboratory at the cost of Rs.9 Lakhs to Thirumalai Kumaraswamy Girls Higher Secondary School at Panpozhi, Tenkasi Taluk, Tirunelveli District and for construction of

Science Laboratory at the cost of Rs.9 Lakhs to Arulmighu Periya Nayagiamman Girls Higher Secondary School at Muthupettai, Thiruthuraipoondi Taluk, Tiruvarur District .

RENOVATION AT TEMPLES AND KUMBABISHEGAM FESTIVALS

This Government is taking special interest in temple renovations. The fund for the temple renovations is mobilized from various sources such as Public Donation, Surplus funds of the respective temples, diversion of surplus funds from the affluent temples, Government Grants, Common Good Fund, Temple Development fund, Village Temple Renovation Fund, and Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund. After this Government assumed office, permission has been accorded for the renovation and for performing kumbabishegam of 4020 temples at the cost of Rs.387 Crores.

a) Diversion of surplus funds from the affluent temples

Under Section 36 of the Tamilnadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act 1959, funds are diverted from the surplus funds of affluent temples to temples which have no funds. After this Government assumed office, a sum of Rs. 12.32 crores has been disbursed to 150 temples for renovation.

b) Government Grant

Considering the fact that several temples of architectural value and historical importance are in a dilapidated condition requiring renovation and Kumbabishegams for several temples cannot be performed in time for want of funds, the annual Government grant has been raised as Rs.3 crores based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Accordingly, every year an amount of Rs. 3 Crores is given for Temple renovations as Government grant. After this Government assumed

office, a sum of Rs. 9.75 crores has been disbursed to 201 temples.

c) Common Good Fund

Common Good Fund has been created under Section 97 of the Act from the financial assistance received from the Religious Institutions and donations received from the individuals. Financial assistance is rendered from the above fund, for the repairs and renovation of needy temples. After this Government assumed office, a sum of Rs. 10.53 crores has been disbursed to 368 temples.

d) Temple Development Fund

A Permanent Deposit of Rs.5 crores has been created from the surplus funds of affluent temples. Now this fund has been enhanced as Rs. 8 Crores. From the annual interest accrued, fund is allotted for carrying out the renovation and repairs of ancient temples sung by Nayanmars and Alwars and for the temples having historical, archaeological and tourist importance. Also, a sum

of Rs.1200/- per temple is contributed for the Oru Kala Pooja Scheme from this Fund. A sum of Rs.1.26 Crores has been released for contributing Orukala pooja scheme. After this Government assumed office, a sum of Rs. 1.99 Crores has been disbursed for the renovation of 22 temples.

e) Village Temples Renovation Fund

As a permanent measure for the Village temple Renovation scheme a Corpus Fund of Rs.2 Crores has been created from the surplus funds of Arulmighu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani. After this Government assumed Office, a sum of Rs.1.48 Crores has been disbursed for the renovation of 35 temples .

f) Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

The “Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund” has been created out of the donations received from the philanthropists and the general public. By this scheme, funds are allotted for the renovation of temples of ancient historical, and archaeological importance.

A sum of Rs.1300/- is given as share for each temple under the Orukala Pooja scheme from this fund.

g) Renovation Fund for temples situated in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal People

With the assistance of funds diverted from the surplus funds of the affluent temples, a financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- per temple is given for the renovation of small temples situated at the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal people. After this Government assumed office financial assistance for the 4000 temples have been announced and a sum of Rs.9.19 Crores have been disbursed to 3677 temples.

h) Renovation of Historical and Ancient temples

In Tamil Nadu there are many ancient temples rich in heritage, sculpture and Archaeological excellence. Out of these many temples are in a state requiring renovation. Out of

which 48 temples have been selected and renovated from the grants of the 12th Finance Commission without impairing their antiquity at the cost of Rs.9.87 Crores.

i) Renovation of temples sung by Nayanmars and Alwars

Among many ancient temples, sung by Nayanmars and Alwars, 30 temples that were found in a dilapidated condition, renovation works were completed at the cost of Rs.3.29 Crores diverted from the surplus fund of the affluent temples.

BASIC AMENITIES FOR THE DEVOTEES

This Government is giving importance for providing basic amenities for the devotees visiting the temple. Proper measures have been taken for improving the existing facilities in cottages, cloak rooms, electrification, custody of footwear, drinking water, toilet facilities and for providing additional facilities for lodging, drinking water and toilet facilities in the temple. Cleaning, house keeping of

the cottages and maintaining them are taken up by private outsourcing organizations in 17 important temples. Drinking water is provided in 12 important temples after purifying the water by Reverse Osmosis method .

Now, Panchamirtham is prepared and distributed to the devotees in Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy temple, Palani in a very clean, hygienic and modern method with the automated machines procured at the cost of Rs. 1 Crore.

Vibuthi and Kungumam packed using automated machines in a modern method in small pouches having the images of God and Goddess printed on it are distributed to the devotees freely at important temples of Tamil Nadu.

PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR THE DEVOTEES JOINING WITH TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Joining with the Tourism Department this department is providing necessary facilities for the devotees and tourists visiting the temples.

Rs. 25.20 Crores have been disbursed to 54 temples for implementing various schemes for the convenience of the devotees and for the welfare of the tourists.

RENOVATION OF TEMPLE TANKS

There are 2324 temple tanks in the Religious Institutions under the control of this department .Out of these, 1146 temple tanks are now in good condition after desilting, providing Rain Water Harvesting structures and after renovating and realigning the steps. For the remaining 1178 temple tanks, steps are being taken for desilting, carrying out the repairs and providing for Rain Water Harvest system through the District Administration.

Following the Hon'ble Chief Minister's announcement, on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations of Perarignar Anna at Kanchipuram, under the Urban development scheme the renovation of Sarvatheertha tank belonging to Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple Kanchipuram at the cost of Rs.43.90 lakhs and the renovation of

Rangasamy Tank belonging to the Arulmighu Astapujanga Perumal temple, Kanchipuram at the cost of Rs. 22.50 lakhs at a total cost of Rs.66.40 lakhs Government Grant has been disbursed and the works are in progress.

RENOVATION OF WOODEN CARS

There are 960 Wooden Cars in temples under the control of this department. 16 temple cars were renovated from the funds of the respective temples at a cost of Rs.83.85 lakhs. With these, 735 temple Cars are in good condition. From the Corpus created from the surplus funds of the affluent temples the Government has ordered for repairing the 225 temple cars at a total estimated cost of Rs.10.84 Crore. Accordingly the car renovation works are in progress.

GOLDEN CARS IN THE TEMPLES

On the encouragement by this Government for making new Golden Cars in temples, Golden Cars have been newly made for the following 14

temples and they are now at the service of the devotees after completion:-

1. Arulmigu Mundakakanniyamman Temple, Mylapore, Chennai.
2. Arulmigu Jambukeswarar Temple, Thiruvanaikkaval, Tiruchirappalli.
3. Arulmigu Chandrasoodeswarer Temple, Hosur, Krishnagiri District.
4. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Thiruparankundram, Madurai.
5. Arulmigu Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Namakkal.
6. Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Karur.
7. Arulmigu Dhandumariamman Temple, Coimbatore.
8. Arulmigu Karunellinathaswamy Temple, Thirutthangal, Virudhunagar District.
9. Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Pachamalai, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District.
10. Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kaliaswamy Temple, Ariyakurichi, Sivagangai District.

11. Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar temple,
Thiruchengodu, Namakkal District.
12. Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Gandhimathi Temple,
Tirunelveli.
13. Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayakiamman Temple,
Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai District.
14. Arulmigu Vekkaiiamman Temple,
Tiruchirappalli.

With the above, totally 41 Golden Cars are available in the temples of Tamil Nadu.

Besides New Golden Car works are in progress in the following 15 temples:-

1. Arulmigu Kottai Mariamman Temple, Dindugul.
2. Arulmigu Masaniamman Temple, Anaimalai,
Coimbatore District.
3. Arulmigu Angalaparameswariamman Temple,
Melmalaiyanur, Villupuram District.
4. Arulmigu Kondathukaiiamman temple, Pariyur,
Erode District.
5. Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar temple, Salem.
6. Arulmigu Vanabathra Kaiiamman Temple,
Thekkampatti, Coimbatore District.

7. Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, Sholingar, Vellore District.
8. Arulmigu Bagavathiamman Temple, Kanniyakumari.
9. Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkoil, Madurai.
10. Arulmighu Thirumalai Kumaraswamy Temple, Panpozhi, Tirunelveli District.
11. Arulmigu Kottai Mariamman Temple, Salem.
12. Arulmigu Kandaswamy Temple, Tiruporur, Chengalpattu taluk, Kancheepuram District.
13. Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Thiruvappur, Pudukottai District.
14. Arulmigu Muthumariamman Temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District.
15. Arulmigu Bhavaniamman Temple, Periyapallayam, Tiruvallur District.

CONFERRING THE TITLE AS PATRONS AND ISSUING GOLDEN CARDS

A scheme of awarding a title as “**Puravalar**” and issuing a “**Golden Card**” has been introduced to raise funds for the purpose of renovating the temples. As per the Government

order the donor donating Rs.5 lakhs will be awarded a title as “**Thirukkoil Puravalar**” and issued a “**Golden Card**” by this scheme. Accordingly, a “**Golden Card**” is issued for the donor or the institution while donating Rs.5 lakhs to the scheme. This also entitles 5 persons from their family or from the organisation to have dharsan at temples under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department by special entry for 20 years. So far, Golden Cards have been issued to 42 Puravalars (patrons) and a sum of Rs.2.10 Crore has been collected.

ORU KALA POOJA SCHEME

In order to encourage the participation of the general public in the performance of regular poojas in the temple which are financially poor “**Oru Kala Poojas**” scheme , is provided by the department contributing Rs.22,500/- as department fund, if a contribution of Rs.2,500/- is made by the public for a particular temple. The total sum of Rs.25,000/- is invested as Fixed Deposit in the name of the needy

temple and from the interest thereof, Oru Kala Pooja is arranged to be performed everyday. So far, 11,671 temples have been benefited under the scheme.

SAFETY OF ICONS AND OTHER VALUABLES

To safeguard the icons and other valuable articles of the temples, safety measures have been taken such as installation of Closed Circuit Televisions, revolving cameras, burglar alarms, tell-tale clocks, inner locking system, fixing iron gates, appointment of healthy youth as night watchmen, arranging for the appointment of personnel from the Temple Protection Force and employing the Policemen in consultation with the Police Department.

After this Government assumed office the following safety measures have been taken to strengthen the security arrangements in the temples:-

1. Closed Circuits Cameras (C.C.T.V.) have been newly installed in 51 temples.

2. Burglar Alarms have been newly installed in 397 temples.
3. Rs.3,79,711/- have been ordered and disbursed as financial assistance from the Common Good Fund for installing Burglar Alarms in 24 temples.
4. To install Burglar Alarms for needy temples the Government have issued order to create a Corpus of Rs.5 Crores by diverting the surplus funds from affluent temples. Rs.3,43,793/- have been disbursed to 22 temples for installation of Burglar Alarms from the interest accrued from the above fund.

In order to protect the icons of the temples without adequate protection, "Icon Centers" have been constructed in 15 places. There, the Icons kept for safety are offered daily Poojas. Provisions have been made for taking the relevant idols to the respective temples during festival seasons for the worship of devotees and to bring them back to the Icon Centers after the festival is over, for safe custody.

In order to provide Icon Centre for each district, five Icon centres at Thiruvotriyur, Thiruthani, Viradhunagar, Villupuram and Dharmapuri has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.1.75 Crore and the works are in progress.

TEMPLE PROTECTION FORCE

A separate Wing namely "Temple Protection Force" has been formed by the Government for protecting the icons, jewels, hundials and other precious articles in the temples. In this wing 1000 Grade II Police constables and 3000 Ex-servicemen have been allotted for the posts. At present 2042 Ex-servicemen and 717 Police Constables are deployed in 2684 temples for security service.

FESTIVALS HONOURING TAMIL SAVANTS

"**Divine Sekkizhar**" festival is celebrated as a Government function every year in the Tamil month of Vaikasi at his birth place, Kunrathur near Chennai, by the Hindu Religious and Charitable

Endowments Department. Similarly, “**Panniru Thirumurai Vizha**” and “**Sekkizhar Vizha**” are celebrated for 12 days at Kapaleeswarar and Karpagambal temple, Mylapore Chennai every year in the month of August.

Further, to honour Saint Thirugnanasambandar, “**Thirugnanasambandar isai vizha**” is celebrated every year at Arulmigu Vedagiriswarar temple, Thirukazhukundram, on behalf of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. To honour the poetess Avvaiyar, “**Avvai vizha**” is celebrated in Arulmigu Avvaiyar Temple, Thulasiyapattinam, Vedaranyam taluk, Nagapattinam district, “**Thayumanavar vizha**” is celebrated in Arulmigu Thayumanasamy temple, Rockfort, Tiruchirappalli, to commemorate the great saint Thayumanavasamy. “**Thiruvalluvar vizha**” is celebrated in Arulmigu Thiruvalluvar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai on “Thiruvalluvar Day” to honour the Divine Poet **Thiruvalluvar**. “**Arulalar Arunagirinadhar Vizha**” is celebrated in Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Thiruvannamalai to

honour saint Arunagirinadhar. To honour Kochenkatchozha Nayanar “**Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha**” is celebrated at Arulmigu Jambukeswarar and Akilandeswari Temple, Thiruvaanikaval, Tiruchirappalli district on every year in a grand manner.

Apart from these festivals, it has been ordered to celebrate on their birth or Mukthi day every year by conducting special festivals in Honour of all the other Nayanmars and Alwars who sang Thirumurai such as Devaram, Thiruvagasam and Prabandam in the Divine Tamil at relevant temples.

THALAVARALARU AND THALAPURANAM

Thalavaralaru and Thalapuram are published by every temple enabling the public to know the history, purana, architecture, inscriptions, etc., and about the significance of worshipping in the concerned temples.

ANNADHANA SCHEME

The Scheme of providing Annadhanam is implemented in 360 temples for providing free meal everyday at noon to the devotees visiting the temples. An exclusive account for Annadhana Scheme has been opened in the office of the Commissioner and Rs.3.27 Crores has been received as donation. Further a special corpus of Rs.21.83 Crores has been created for this scheme diverted from the surplus funds of the affluent temples. From the interest accrued from this fund financial assistance is given to the temples those do not have sufficient funds to execute this scheme. This Government after assuming office, so far has rendered financial assistance of Rs.5.60 Crore.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL CLASSES

In 485 temples including the temples where Annadhana Scheme is implemented, Spiritual and Moral Instruction classes are conducted by scholars on every Sunday evening for the children to teach spirituality, ethics and

discipline. This scheme have been extended and the classes are conducted on Saturdays also.

KARUNAI ILLANGAL

Karunai Illangal are conducted by the temples to provide food, education and shelter for the orphan children. Totally 793 children (511 boys & 282 girls) in the 34 Karunai Illangal run by 31 temples are being benefited. The Government is providing a grant of Rs.467/- per month for the maintenance of each child. During the past three years a total amount of Government aid of Rs. 1.15 Crores has been disbursed. Steps have been taken to train the Students of Karunai Illangal in Typewriting, Computer, Music and Tailoring .

SPECIAL WORSHIP AND COMMON FEAST

Every year a common feast and special worship is organised at affluent temples on the days of national Independence and Perarignar Anna Memorial Day, enabling the participation of the people from various levels of the society without

discrimination. Hon'ble Ministers, District Collectors, Government Officials, important dignitaries, persons of religious faith and general public grace this function by their participation.

INTEGRATED CATTLE FARMS MAINTAINED BY THE TEMPLES

Following the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras to maintain cows, bulls and calves offered to the temples through the Goshalas (Pasumadam) instead of selling them through public auction, four "Integrated cattle farms" with all facilities at Tiruchendur, Rameswaram, Tiruchirappalli, Palani were established to maintain the cattle received as offering in the temples.

Another case was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in the year 2008. Based on the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court in this case that the Cattle received by the integrated Goshalas as donation may be given to the Goshalas approved by the Animal Welfare Boards of Central and State Govt., Women self help groups

recommended by the District Collectors, recipients of 2 Acres of free land from Govt., Archakas and Poosaries who are working in the temples under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, the Jain Organisations which are functioning properly Holy Mutts, Organisations doing Uzhavarapani at temples. Following this directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, 267 cattle from Arulmigu Dhandayuthapanisamy Temple, Palani, 189 cattle from Arulmigu Renganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, 278 cattle from Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur, 176 cattle from Arulmigu Kalazhagar Temple Azhagarkoil, 16 cattle belonging to Arulmigu Vanjinathaswamy Temple, Srivanjiyam, Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur, and Arulmigu Sowrirajaperumal Temple, Tirukannapuram were distributed free for the Women self-help group, Archakas and Poosaries working in the temples.

LIBRARIES NEWLY CREATED AT TEMPLES

As per the order of the Commissioner 114 libraries have been newly started for the benefit of the devotees at important temples where sufficient funds and space are available. Steps have also been taken for improving libraries at temples where already libraries are there.

YOGASANA CLASSES AT TEMPLES

Meditation and Yoga Coaching classes are now conducted at 52 temples where sufficient fund and space are available in hygienic and well-ventilated places by trained and qualified persons during every morning to upkeep the physical and mental health of the public / devotees.

STHAPATHIS

To ensure that the Temple renovations are carried out in accordance with the standards prescribed in Agama and Silpa Sasthra, persons practicing this art, learnt traditionally from their ancestors and those possessing a degree or a

diploma in sculptural arts are accorded proper recognition as Sthapathis. Accordingly 184 persons have been selected and approved as Sthapathis subject to the final orders of the Hon'ble High Court. Steps have been taken for providing refresher training course in lime mortar sculpture works for these Sthapathis approved by this Department and other Sthapathis in lieu of the renovations carried out at temples.

APPOINTMENT OF NATHASWARA ARTISTES IN TEMPLES

For playing "Nathaswaram" during the time of festivals and poojas at financially poor temples a corpus of Rs. 1 Crore has been deposited for enabling payment for Musicians recruited for playing Nathaswaram Thavil and Thaala instruments at a monthly salary of Rs.1500/-, 1000/- and Rs.750/- respectively.

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR THE TEMPLE EMPLOYEES

The welfare schemes implemented for the welfare of the Temple Employees working at Various levels in the Hindu religious institutions of Tamil Nadu are listed below:-

1. Family Benefit fund scheme.
2. Special Provident Fund and Gratuity scheme.
3. Temple Employees Welfare Fund scheme.
4. Pension Scheme for Archakar, Odhuvar, Musician, Vedhaparayanar etc.
5. Departmental Pension scheme for the temple employees.
6. Advance for Marriage, Festival and for purchase of Vehicle.
7. Washing and Medical Allowances.
8. House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance.
9. Leave surrender salary and other leave concessions.
10. Selection Grade and Special Grade pay fixation.

11. Appointment on compassionate grounds.
12. Kumbabishegam incentive.
13. Additional incentive for annual festivals.
14. Dearness Allowance.
15. Pongal Ex-gratia payment.
16. Providing Laptop for the Temple Employees son / daughter.
17. Financial assistance for the Education for the Son / Daughter of the temple Employees.
18. Providing Uniforms and Identity cards for the Temple employees.
19. Computer training for Temple employees.
20. Providing Free Bicycles for the Archakas / Poosaries of the temples where Oru Kala Pooja is performed.

Family Benefit Fund Scheme

This scheme was introduced to help the heirs of the temple employees dying in harness. According to this scheme Rs. 1 Lakh is granted for the heirs of the deceased. A corpus of Rs.10 Crores has been created for the implementation of the scheme from the interest accruing thereof.

A sum of Rs. 2.53 Crores has been granted for 334 beneficiaries since this Government assumed office.

Special Provident Fund Scheme

This scheme was introduced for the welfare of the employees of the Temples having an annual income of Rs.1 lakh and above. The amount of Rs. 1000/- disbursed as gratuity under this scheme along with the total subscription paid by the retiring employee during his service has now been enhanced as Rs.5000/- A corpus of Rs.50 lakhs has been created for this scheme out of the surplus funds of the affluent Temples.

Temple Employees Welfare Scheme

A scheme has been created for the temple employees having an annual income of less than Rs.40,000, and drawing a monthly salary of less than Rs.400/- for paying their salary arrears through a corpus fund of Rs.5 Crores mobilized from the surplus funds of Arulmighu Dhandayuthapani Temple, Palani. From the

interest accrued from this fund the arrears of salary to employees are paid every year. From 20.10.2008 this scheme has been extended to temple having an annual income less than Rs. 1 lakh and the employees working in such temples receiving a monthly income of below Rs.750/-. After this Government assumed office, a sum of Rs.1.09 Crores has been disbursed to 3673 beneficiaries working in 2, 588 temples.

Providing Laptop for the Temple Employees Son / Daughter

It has been ordered to grant Laptops for the first 100 students, being the Son or Daughter of the Temple Employees on the basis of their marks obtained in Higher Secondary Examination and having passed the Higher Secondary Examination and continuing their higher studies.

Financial assistance for the Education of the Son / Daughter of the temple Employees

It has been ordered to grant financial assistance of 25% in the First year Tuition fees for the Son or Daughter of the Temple employees studying Professional Courses in a Government or a Government aided educational institution.

Providing Uniforms and Identity cards for the Temple employees

In order to easily identify the Temple employees by the public, uniforms and Identity Cards are provided for all the temple employees, working in the important Temples and the same is being implemented in the important temples.

Computer training for temple employees

It has been ordered to give basic training in Computer to the Temple employees working in the Temple Offices. In the first phase, Computer training is being given to the employees of Senior Grade Temples.

Providing Free Bicycles for the Archaka / Poosarigal of the temples where Oru Kala Pooja is performed.

It has been ordered to distribute 10,000 free bicycles to the Archaka and Poosarigal performing Poojas in Oru Kala Pooja temples, situated in the villages to enable them to reach the temple without any difficulty and to conduct the Pooja in time.

PENSION SCHEMES

i) Pension for Archakar, Othuvar, Vedhaparayanar, Musician, Arayar etc.

Archakar, Othuvar, Vedhaparayanar, Musician, Arayar etc., who served for 20 years in Temples and attained 60 years of age receive a monthly pension of Rs.750/- through this scheme. So far, pension is paid to 767 persons under the scheme.

ii) Village Poosarigal Pension Scheme

The Government have sanctioned a monthly pension scheme of Rs.750/- for village Temple poosarigal who have served more than 20 years

in village Temples which are not under the control of the department and attained 60 years of age. Under this scheme, 3,684 village poosaries are benefited.

iii) Pension Scheme for other employees serving in temples

There are two types of Pension Schemes implemented for the temple employees. As per this Scheme, employees working in the affluent temples, and who have more than 10 years of service, subscribe to Employees Provident Fund Scheme, and receive the benefits like Pension and family pension under this scheme.

Further the employees serving in the affluent temples who have less than 10 years of service and all employees working in the temples which are not affluent to subscribe for Employees Provident Fund Scheme are permitted to subscribe for Departmental Pension Scheme. A monthly pension of Rs.750/- has been sanctioned for the Employees who have retired from service from 01.01.2006. Now this monthly pension of Rs.750/-

has been enhanced to Rs. 800/- and implemented from 01.01.2010. Further for the employees who had retired from 01.01.1996 pension of Rs.800/- per month from 01.01.2010 has been sanctioned. So far 829 retired temple employees are receiving Pension under this scheme.

CELEBRATION OF TAMIL NEW YEAR DAY IN TEMPLES.

Since the Government have announced that the first day of the Tamil Month Thai as the Tamil New Year day, it has been ordered to celebrate this day as Tamil New Year day in the temples. It has also been ordered to conduct competitions such as writing essays on Thirukkural, reciting Thirukkural, Oratorical competition for the School Children on this day and to distribute prizes in the important temples. Accordingly, on the first day of Tamil month Thai, Tamil New Year was celebrated in a grand manner in all the important temples under the control of this Department.

“THIRUKKOIL” MONTHLY MAGAZINE

A monthly magazine named **“Thirukkoil”** is published since 1958 by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Articles on Hindu Religion, Hindu philosophy, history of the temple, festivals etc., and certain works by the eminent Tamil scholars and writers are published in this magazine.

“e-POOJA” WEBSITE

A website namely www.hrce.tn.nic.in has been hosted containing information about various schemes and activities of this department. A unique facility under the scheme “e-pooja” enables any person, at any time, from any part of the world, to book poojas of his choice in advance to be performed on any date and time of his choice through the websites of Madurai, Srirangam and Tiruchendur Temples. Steps have been taken to improve Temple websites to contain more information on history, myth, the development, other activities of the temples with attractive

pictures of the Deities and festivals adding audio visual facility for the permanent viewing by the devotees.

Further, with a view to provide easy access for the devotees to receive information about temples it has been ordered to create Information Centers at important temples in 12 Districts in the first phase integrating information of temples located in adjacent and other Districts with computerized facility.

In order to furnish information such as poojas and the availability of Cottages regarding temples, an exclusive software to work with the integrated websites connecting important temples of Tamil Nadu has been ordered to be formed as a computerized information centre at Chennai.

CONCLUSION

“ குடிதழீஇக் கோலோச்சு மாநில மன்னன்
அடிதழீஇ நிற்கும் உலகு ”

Proving the above saying of Ayyan Thiruvalluvar in the couplet, this Government for its

gentle way of taking care of all the people of the State by announcing and implementing the welfare schemes for the downtrodden and the manner of completing the same is receiving nationwide praise and appreciation to be followed. This department under the control of this Government is working hard for the general upheaval of the society by way of introducing various welfare schemes in Temples.

The department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment will continue to serve tirelessly monitoring the temples with great involvement having objects in mind such as establishing the due place for classical Tamil in the temples, to promote and develop the basic amenities for the public and the devotees visiting the temples and to protect the temple properties ensuring the increase of revenue derived there from.

KR. PERIAKARUPPAN,

Minister for Hindu Religious
and Charitable Endowments.

ANNEXURE - I**2010-11 BUDGET ESTIMATE****Rs. in thousands**

		2009-10 Budget Estimate	2009-10 Revised Estimate	2010-11 Budget Estimate
2235	Social Security and Welfare	4500	4500	4500
2250	Other Social Services– 102 Administration of Religious and Charitable Endowments Act	434546	398852	542918
	103 Upkeep of shrines, temples, etc.,	10000	10000	10000
	800 Other Expenditure (Pensions, Grants to institutions in merged areas and grants for repairs to temples)	57742	59333	59333
4250	Capital Outlay on other social services	22216	12216	28201

ANNEXURE - II**ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES – 5**

Sl. No.	Name and Place
1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts and Culture College, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani.
3.	Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Kutralam.
4.	Sri Devi Kumari College for Women, Kuzhithurai.
5.	Poombuhar College, Melaiyur.

POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE – 1

Sl. No.	Name and Place
1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Polytechnic College, Palani.

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS – 12

Sl. No.	Name and Place
1.	Arulmigu Periyayagamman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Thirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai.
3.	Arulmigu Vazhathottathaiyan Higher Secondary School, Ayyampalayam.
4.	Arulmigu Perur Santhaliga Adigalar Higher Secondary School, Perur.
5.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai.
6.	Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniaswamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirupparankundram, Madurai.
7.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumaraswami Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Panpozhi.
8.	Devasthanam Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu.
9.	Sri Gandhimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirunelveli.

10.	T. Venugopal Chetty Higher Secondary School, 11, Redler Street, Chennai-12. (Arulmigu Muthukumarasamy Thirukoil Rasappa chetty St., Chennai-7)
11.	Hindu Higher Secondary School, 18, Ponnappachetty Street, Chennai-3. (Arulmigu Muthukumarasamy Thirukoil, Rasappa chetty St., Chennai-7)
12.	Arulmigu Parvathavarthini Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram

HIGH SCHOOLS – 10

Sl. No.	Name and Place
1.	Arulmigu Anjuvattathamman Girls High School, Kilvelur.
2.	Arulmigu Kaliyugavaratharaja Perumal Grils High School, Kallankurichi.
3.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Thirukkoil Grils High School, Thiruvenkadu.
4.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Thirukkoil Boys High School, Thiruvenkadu.
5.	Arulmigu Sundarraja High School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai.

6.	Devaswom High School, Thirparappu.
7.	Devaswom High School, Kuzhithurai.
8.	Sri Sivapprakasa Swamigal High School, Mayilam, Dindivanam, (Srimath Sivagnana Palaya Swamigal Madam, Villupuram)
9.	Sri Thirugnana Sambanda High School, Tharmapuram.
10.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Devasthanam High School, Chennai-3.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS – 3

Sl. No.	Name and Place
1.	Arulmigu Sundararaja Middle School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai.
2.	Thiruvavaduthurai Atheenam Middle School, Thiruvavaduthurai.
3.	Thiruvavaduthurai Atheenam Ambalavana Thesigar Middle School, Thiruvavaduthurai.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS – 10

Sl. No.	Name and Place
1.	Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Elementary School, Palayamkottai.
2.	Sankaranarayananaswami Thirukkoil Elementary School, Sankarankoil.
3.	Sri Meikandar Elementary School, Thiruvenkadu, (Arulmigu Swatharenyeswarar Thirukkoil, Tiruvenkadu.)
4.	Devaswom Elementary School, Kuzhithurai.
5.	Arulmigu Thandayuthapaniswami Aided Elementary School, Palani
6.	Thiruvavaduthurai Atheenam Elementary School, Thiruvaidaimaruthur.
7.	Thirugnanasambandar Elementary School, Dharmapuram.
8.	Arulmigu Sundarrajaa Elementary School, Azharkoil, Madurai.
9.	Anjugam Elementary School, Kodambakkam, Chennai, (Arulmigu Barathvajeswarar Thirukkoil, Puliyur, Chennai)
10.	Padmavathi Kannapiran Elementary School, Otteri, Chennai.

MATRICULATION SCHOOL – 1

Sl. No.	Name and Place
1.	Palaniandavar Matriculation School, Palani

PADASALAS – 12

Sl. No.	Name and Place
1.	<u>VEDHA AGAMA PADASALAS – 3</u> Arulmigu Thandayuthapaniswami Thirukkoil, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Vaithyanathaswami Thirukkoil, Vaitheeswarankoil (Dharmapura Adheenam)
3.	Arulmigu Subramanyaswamy Thirukkoil, Thiruchendur.
4.	<u>THEVARA TRAINING SCHOOLS – 6</u> Arulmigu Thandayuthapaniswami Thirukkoil, Palani.
5.	Arulmigu Vaithyanathaswami Thirukkoil, Vaitheeswarankoil.
6.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Thirukkoil, Thiruchendur.
7.	Arulmigu Thanumalaiyanswami Thirukkoil, Suchindram.

8.	Tharmapura Atheenam, Tharmapuram, Mayiladudurai.
9.	Maruthanayaga Mudaliar Annapoorani Ammal Trust, Coimbatore.
10.	<u>NATHASWARAM AND THAVIL TRAINING SCHOOLS – 3</u> Arulmigu Thandayuthapaniswami Thirukkoil, Palani.
11.	Arulmigu Naganathaswami Thirukkoil, Thirunageswaram.
12.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Thirukkoil, Thiruchendur.

SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTIONS – 11

Sl. No.	Name and Place
	<u>SIDDHA HOSPITALS – 6</u>
1	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Thirukkoil, Palani.
2	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Thirukkoil, Marudhamalai.

3	Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Thirukkoil, Vadapalani.
4	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Thirukkoil, Thiruttani.
5	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Thirukkoil, Thiruparankundram.
6	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Thirukkoil, Tiruchendur.

ALLOPATHY HOSPITALS -2

7	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Thirukkoil, Palani.
8	Arulmigu Karpagavinayagar Thirukkoil, Pillaiyarpatti.

OLDAGE HOMES – 2

9	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Thirukkoil, Palani.
10	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Thirukkoil, Thiruparankundram.

SCHOOL FOR HEARING IMPAIRED – 1

11	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Thirukkoil, Palani.
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KARUNAI ILLANGAL – 34

Sl. No.	Place	Name of the Temple Arulmigu	No.of Karunai Illams	
			Boys	Girls
1.	Thiruverkadu	Devi Karumariamman Thirukkoil	1	-
2.	Thiruthani	Subramania swami Thirukkoil	1	1
3.	Palani	Thandayuthapanis wami Thirukkoil	1	1
4.	Samayapuram	Mariamman Thirukkoil	1	-
5.	Madurai	Meenakshi Sundareswarar Thirukkoil	-	1
6.	Thiruchendur	Subramania swami Thirukkoil	1	-
7.	Rameswaram	Ramanatha swami Thirukkoil	-	1
8.	Mayilapore	Kapaleeswarar Thirukkoil	1	-
9.	Maruthamalai	Subramania swami Thirukkoil	1	-
10.	Bannari	Bannari Mariamman Thirukkoil	1	1

11.	Azhagarkoil	Kallazhagar Thirukkoil	-	1
12.	Sholingar	Lakshmi Narasimha swami Thirukkoil	1	-
13.	Thiruvannamalai	Arunachale swarar Thirukkoil	1	-
14.	Swamimalai	Swaminatha swami Thirukkoil	1	-
15.	Salem	Sugavaneswarar Thirukkoil	1	-
16.	Thekkampatty	Vanabadra kalamman Thirukkoil	1	-
17.	Ayyampalayam	Vazhathottathu Ayyan Thirukkoil	1	-
18.	Thirupparan kundram	Subramania swami Thirukkoil	-	1
19.	Oppliyappan-koil	Venkitachalapathi Thirukkoil	-	1
20.	Manavalanallur	Kolanjiappar Thirukkoil	1	-
21.	Thirunageswaram	Naganatha swami Thirukkoil	1	-
22.	Kodumudi	Magudeswara swamy Veeranarayana Perumal Thirukkoil	1	-

23.	Echanari	Vianayagar Thirukkoil	1	-
24.	Perur	Patteeswaraswami Thirukkoil	-	1
25.	Anaimalai	Masaniamman Thirukkoil	-	1
26.	Karaikudi	Koppudainayagi Amman Thirukkoil	1	-
27.	Sivanmalai	Subramaniaswami Thirukkoil	1	-
28.	Madappuram	Adaikalamkaatha Ayyanar & Badrakaliamman Thirukkoil	1	-
29.	Thirunelveli	Nellaiyappar Gandhimathi Amman Thirukkoil	-	1
30.	Chennai	Muthukumara swami Devasthanam	1	-
31.	Thayaman-galam	Muthumariamman Thirukkoil	1	-
		TOTAL	23	11