

**Tourism, Culture and Religious  
Endowments Department**

**Hindu Religious and Charitable  
Endowments Department,**

**Demand No.47**

**Policy Note**

**2014-2015**

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**Tourism, Culture and Religious  
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**Policy Note**

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**Introduction**

**Peace, Progress, Prosperity**

- Tamil Nadu has reached great heights due to the path shown by our **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. Understanding the important role of temples in the heritage of Tamil Nadu the Government headed by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** considers nurturing the temples of Tamil Nadu as its primary duty. According to the directions of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**

**Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, the conservation, maintenance and development of temples is carried out keeping in view the historical and archaeological importance of the temples of Tamil Nadu.

2. Religious devotees visit temples every day after observing arduous penance to attain spiritual development. In order to satisfy the aspirations of these devotees, the Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** is working towards making the temples as places of worship with a peaceful atmosphere, conducive to attain spiritual elevation.

3. The religious institutions under the auspices of Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments Department are repositories of culture, art and history. Temples are not only places of worship for believers but they also attract inter-national tourists.

4. In these circumstances in accordance with the directions of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, the Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments Department understands the aspirations of the public and administers temples in Tamil Nadu effectively, ensures effective superintendence and worship as per custom and usage and provides amenities for the devotees who visit temples.

### **Administration**

5. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act was enacted in the year 1959 realizing the fact that the administrative governance of Temples, Mutts and Endowments are to be monitored by the Government after carrying out the required modifications by examining the various enactments between the year 1863 and 1956. The Act has been

cautiously amended as and when required in the interest of the public and Hindu Religious Institutions.

6. The Tamil Nadu Act 22/1959 is a law enacted by the State Legislature, only with the view to amend and consolidate the law relating to the administration and governance of Hindu Religious and Charitable Institutions and Endowments in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Act is actually a successor to several previous enactments, the earliest of which was the Madras Endowments and Escheats Regulation No.VII of 1817. It was repealed by Act XX of 1863. The 1863 Act was replaced by the Madras Hindu Religious and Endowments Act, II of 1927, by which a statutory body called the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Board was created. The Board was later abolished by Act XIX of 1951, which vested the administration of Religious and Charitable Endowments in a

hierarchy of officers of defined jurisdiction and headed by a Commissioner. The 1951 Act was repealed by the present Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Act 22 of 1959) which also created a hierarchy of authorities such as the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

7. This Act prescribes the Rights and duties of the Commissioner and other subordinate Officers of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. It also states various means for improving the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions. This Act further empowers the Government to extend the provisions to the Jain Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments.



## Hindu Religious Institutions

8. There are 38,575 Hindu Religious and Jain Religious Institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The details are as follows: -

|    |                                |               |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Temples                        | 36,534        |
| 2. | Holy Maths                     | 56            |
| 3. | Temples attached to Holy Maths | 58            |
| 4. | Specific Endowments            | 1,721         |
| 5. | Charitable Endowments          | 189           |
| 6. | Jain temples                   | 17            |
|    | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>38,575</b> |

## Classification of the Hindu Religious Institutions

9. The Hindu Religious institutions have been classified as listed and non listed institutions based on the annual income. The details are as follows: -

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Classification of Religious Institutions</b> | <b>Annual income of Institutions</b>                             | <b>Number of Institutions</b> |
|----------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1.             | Non listed Institutions – under Section 49(1)   | having an annual income of less than Rs.10,000/-                 | 34,022                        |
| 2.             | Listed Institutions – Under Section 46(i)       | having an annual income of Rs.10,000/- and less than Rs.2 lakh.  | 3,571                         |
| 3.             | Under Section 46(ii)                            | having an annual income of Rs. 2 lakh and less than Rs. 10 lakh. | 662                           |
| 4.             | Under Section 46(iii)                           | having an annual income of Rs.10 lakh and above.                 | 320                           |
|                |   | <b>Total</b>   | 38,575                        |

### **Administrative structure**

10. The Commissioner, functions as the administrative head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department responsible to maintain, protect and monitor the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions

according to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Amended Act 39/1996).

11. In order to assist the Commissioner, in the activities such as general administration, conservation and renovation/restoration, suits, audit, establishment and management of movable and immovable properties of these institutions etc. the following officers are serving in the headquarters:

| <b>Post</b>  | <b>Number</b> |
|--|---------------|
| Additional Commissioner (General)  | 1             |
| Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)  | 1             |
| Additional Commissioner (Thiruppani)                                       | 1             |
| Joint Commissioner (Head Quarters)   | 1             |
| Joint Commissioner (Legal Cell)  | 1             |
| Joint Commissioner (Education and Charitable Institutions)                 | 1             |
| Joint Commissioner (Verification-Headquarters)                             | 1             |
| Assistant Commissioner (Legal Cell)  | 1             |
| Assistant Commissioner (Village Temple Poosarigal (Priests) Welfare Board) | 1             |

The list of officers serving in the head quarters from other departments are as below:

| <b>Post</b>  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Department</b>       |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| Special Officers (Temple Lands) (District Revenue Officer cadre) | 2             | Revenue Department      |
| Superintending Engineer  | 1             | Public Works Department |
| Executive Engineer   | 1             | Public Works Department |
| Assistant Divisional Engineer                                    | 1             | Public Works Department |
| Assistant Engineer/Technical Assistant                           | 1             | Public Works Department |
| Assistant Engineer (Electrical)                                  | 1             | Electricity Department  |
| Senior Draughting Officer  | 1             | Public Works Department |
| Draughting Officer   | 2             | Public Works Department |
| Junior Draughting Officer  | 2             | Public Works Department |
| Senior Accounts Officer  | 1             | Treasury Department     |
| Assistant Accounts Officer                                       | 1             | Treasury Department     |
| Chief Audit Officer (Deputy Secretary Cadre)                     | 1             | Finance Department      |

## Regional and District Administration

12. The administration of this Department has been divided into 11 regions at State and 28 divisions at District level. The Hindu Religious Institutions are being supervised by Joint Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners accordingly. The details are as follows:

### Jurisdiction of Officers

| Sl. No. | Region                      | Division                                | Jurisdiction          |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1.      | Joint Commissioner, Chennai | 1. Assistant Commissioner, Chennai      | Chennai District      |
| 2.      | Joint Commissioner, Vellore | 2. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvallur   | Tiruvallur 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 District and Nilgiris District                                       |
|    |                                | 9. Assistant Commissioner, Erode         | Erode District  |
|    |                                | 10. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruppur     | Tiruppur District   |
| 5. | Joint Commissioner, Thanjavur  | 11. Assistant Commissioner, Thanjavur    | Thanjavur District (Except Tiruvidaimarudur and Kumbakonam Taluks)              |
|    |                                | 12. Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam | Nagapattinam District (Except Sirkazhi, Mayiladuthurai and Tarangambadi Taluks) |

|    |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
|    |  | 13. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Tiruvarur       | Tiruvarur District   |
| 6. | Joint Commissioner,<br>Mayiladuthurai  | 14. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Kumbakonam      | Tiruvidaimarudur,<br>Kumbakonam Taluks in Thanjavur District and Mayiladuthurai, Sirkazhi and Tarangambadi Taluks in Nagapattinam District |
| 7. | Joint Commissioner,<br>Villupuram      | 15. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Cuddalore       | Cuddalore District   |
|    |  | 16. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Villupuram      | Villupuram District  |
|    |  | 17. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Tiruvannamalai  | Tiruvannamalai District  |
| 8. | Joint Commissioner,<br>Tiruchirappalli | 18. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Tiruchirappalli | Tiruchirappalli District   |
|    |  | 19. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Ariyalur        | Perambalur District and Ariyalur District  |

|     |                                    |   |  |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|--|
|     |                                    | 20. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Pudukottai   | Pudukottai District                                |
|     |                                    | 21. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Karur        | Karur District                                     |
| 9.  | Joint Commissioner,<br>Madurai     | 22. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Madurai      | Madurai District                                   |
|     |                                    | 23. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Dindigul     | Dindigul District and<br>Theni District            |
| 10. | Joint Commissioner,<br>Sivagangai  | 24. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Virudhunagar | Virudhunagar District                              |
|     |                                    | 25. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Paramakudi   | Sivagangai District and<br>Ramanathapuram District |
| 11. | Joint Commissioner,<br>Tirunelveli | 26. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Tirunelveli  | Tirunelveli District                               |
|     |                                    | 27. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Thoothukudi  | Thoothukudi District                               |
|     |                                    | 28. Assistant Commissioner,<br>Nagercoil    | Kanniyakumari District                             |



## **Inspectors**

13. The Assistant Commissioners in the divisions and Joint Commissioners in the regions of this Department are assisted by 224 Taluk level Inspectors.

## **Personal Assistants**

14. The Executive Officers in the cadre of Joint Commissioners at Palani, Tiruchendur, Madurai, Srirangam, Rameswaram and Tiruthani are assisted by Personal assistants in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner.

## **Verification Officers**

15. To appraise the Jewels and other valuable articles of the temples, there are 6 Verification Officers in the cadre of Deputy Commissioner in 6 Joint Commissioner's Regions, 4 Verification Officers in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner in 5 Joint Commissioner's regions and 1 Verification Officer

in the cadre of Joint Commissioner at Head Quarters.

### **Senior Accounts Officers**

16. The Executive Officers in the cadre of Joint Commissioner in 8 temples are assisted by 8 Senior Accounts Officers in the cadre of Regional Audit Officer.

### **Engineers**

17. The following engineers and draughting officers working in the department are preparing estimates for carrying out temple renovation/restorations, constructions, supervision of works and record measurement.

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Post</b>                            | <b>Number</b> |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| 1            | Superintending Engineer                | 1             |
| 2            | Executive Engineer                     | 1             |
| 3            | Assistant Divisional Engineer          | 1             |
| 4            | Assistant Engineer/Technical Assistant | 2             |
| 5            | Assistant Engineer (Electrical)        | 1             |
| 6            | Senior Draughting Officer              | 1             |
| 7            | Draughting Officer                     | 2             |
| 8            | Junior Draughting Officer              | 2             |

18. At every Joint Commissioner's Office there is an Assistant Divisional Engineer and a Junior draughting officer (Except Villupuram Region). The 24 Assistant Commissioners' Offices are having 24 Assistant Engineers. There are 3 Executive Engineers, each working in the regional Joint Commissioners' Offices at Trichy, Salem and Madurai. There is an Electrical Engineer in each of these regions.

19. The temples at Palani, Samayapuram, Madurai, Tiruttani, Bannari, Marudamalai, Anaimalai, Azhagarkoil, Thiruverkadu, Swamimalai are having engineers of their own to carry out restoration and new works.

In addition to that the temples at Srirangam, Palani, Tiruchendur, Thiruvannamalai, Suchindram and Tiruvarur Assistant Divisional Engineers from Public Works Department are allotted in Foreign Service.

20. In order to carry out the Thiruppani works at Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Salem Joint Commissioner regions, there are 4 Senior draughting officer posts in Tirutani, Arulmighu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Samayapuram, Arulmighu Mariamman Temple, Madurai, Arulmighu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and Tiruchengode, Arulmighu Arthanareeswarar Temple. Similarly, there are 4 draughting officer posts in the temples of Sholingur, Trichy Malaikottai, Azhagarkoil and Namakkal to work in the above said regions.

### **Departmental Sthapathy**

21. During the renovation/restoration of the temples to ensure that the renovation/restoration is in accordance with Shilpa Sastra, to iron out the problems that arise during renovation/restoration, to advise and to approve the plans with reference to Shilpa Sastra, a Departmental Sthapathy has been appointed in the cadre of Superintending

Engineer in this Department. He assists the Commissioner to ensure that all renovation/restorations are in consonance with Shilpa Sastra.

### **Regional Sthapathys**

22. To review and check the renovations, estimates and plans of the temples, 5 Regional Sthapathys are functioning at the State Level. After **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed office, the Government has ordered appointment of 6 more Regional Sthapathys to resolve the delays and speed up restoration and new works and raised the consolidated monthly pay of Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 15,000/-. During the year 2012-2013, the said 6 Regional Sthapathys and 2 more vacancies were filled up. The consolidated pay of Rs. 15,000/- is being disbursed from the funds of the temples to all 11 Regional Sthapathys.

Due to these appointments every division has 1 Sthapathy and the restoration works are progressing fast.

### **Executive Officers**

23. Based on the significance, revenue, assets and other festivities of the temple, the following grades of Executive Officers in temples have been created:

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Executive Officer's Grade</b> | <b>posts</b> |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1.           | Joint Commissioner               | 10           |
| 2.           | Deputy Commissioner              | 10           |
| 3.           | Assistant Commissioner           | 27           |
| 4.           | Executive Officer-Grade I        | 66           |
| 5.           | Executive Officer-Grade II       | 111          |
| 6.           | Executive Officer-Grade III      | 250          |
| 7.           | Executive Officer-Grade IV       | 154          |
|              | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>628</b>   |

### **The Administration of Maths**

24. There are 56 Holy Maths under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. In order to monitor

the administration of these Holy Maths, an Audit section consisting of 1 Regional Audit Officer, 2 Superintendents, 2 Inspectors, 2 Audit Inspectors and 2 Assistants is functioning in the Head quarters.

### **Audit of Religious Institutions**

25. There is a Chief Audit Officer in charge of auditing the accounts of religious institutions. To assist the Chief Audit Officer, 2 Deputy Chief Audit Officers, 18 Regional Audit Officers and 28 Assistant Audit Officers are deployed.

### **High Level Advisory Committee**

26. Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Act 1959 has provisions for the Government to be given advice in the matters relating to Hindu religious institutions. Accordingly, an advisory committee has been formed, headed by **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, having the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and

Charitable Endowments as the Vice Chairman, the Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department as Official member and the Commissioner Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department as the Member Secretary along with the following 10 non official members.

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Sarvasri Ambalavana Pandara Sannadhi, Tiruvavaduthurai Aadheenam, Tiruvavaduthurai |
| 2.  | Srila Sri Kasivasi Muthu Kumaraswamy Tambiran Swamigal, Kasimadam, Tirupanandaal   |
| 3.  | Srimath Aandavan Swamigal, Srimath Aandavan Asiramam (Periya Asiramam), Srirangam  |
| 4.  | Thiru. Karumuthu T. Kannan, Madurai  |
| 5.  | Thiru M. Nandagopal, Chennai   |
| 6.  | Tmt. Devaki Muthaiah, Chennai  |
| 7.  | Thiru P. R. Ramasubramaniaraja, Rajapalayam  |
| 8.  | Manapakkam Thiru M. Kamaraj, Chennai   |
| 9.  | Thiru P. Vijayakumar Reddy, Chennai  |
| 10. | Thiru.Venu Srinivasan, Chennai   |



## **Constitution of District Committee**

27. As per the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the Government has to constitute a District Committee in all the districts consisting of not less than 3 and not more than 5 non-official members. The Committee shall prepare a panel of names of persons qualified for appointment as Trustees except for the Religious Institutions having an annual income of Rs. 10 lakh and above. The term of office of the District Committee shall be 3 years. The Constitution of District Committees was omitted in the Act by the erstwhile Government with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> July 2006. This Government after assuming office, understanding its necessity amended the Act and introduced the constitution of District Committees with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Action has been taken to constitute the District Committee in each revenue district.

## **Appointment of Trustees**

28. For administering Hindu Religious Institutions under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Non-Hereditary Trustees are appointed to each temple that has Non-Hereditary administration. Accordingly the Board of Trustees should consist of not less than 3 persons and not more than 5 persons. This Board should consist of members among whom one shall be from Adi Dravida or Scheduled Tribe and one shall be a woman. The period of this Trust Board is 2 years.

## **Qualification for appointment of Trustees**

29. Under the instructions of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** the following qualifications were newly prescribed for a person to be appointed as Trustee of Hindu Religious and Charitable institutions under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, that the person

should have faith in God, good conduct, reputation and respect in the area where the religious institution is situated, should have the time and will to officiate and possess such other special qualifications.

### **Powers to appoint Trustees**

#### **Government**

30. 5 Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious Institutions falling Under Section 46 (iii) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of Rs. 10 lakh and above are appointed directly by the Government.

#### **Commissioner**

31. 3 Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious Institutions Under Section 46 (ii) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of not less than Rs.2 lakh but less than Rs. 10 lakh are appointed by the Commissioner.

### **Joint Commissioner**

32. 3 Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious Institutions Under Section 46 (i) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act having an annual income of not less than Rs. 10,000/- but less than Rs. 2 lakh are appointed by the Joint Commissioner.

### **Assistant Commissioner**

33. 3 Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious Institutions under section 49(i) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income less than Rs.10,000/- are appointed by the Assistant Commissioner.

34. For those Religious Institutions where the Non-Hereditary Trustees are appointed by the Commissioner, Joint Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners, if necessary, two Non-Hereditary Trustees will be appointed directly by the Government.

## **Appointment of fit person**

35. After completion of the period of the Trust Board, in order to perform the functions of the Board of Trustees, a qualified person will be appointed as a Fit Person as an interim arrangement till the appointment of Board of Trustees.

## **Land Administration**

36. Hindu Religious Institutions have a total extent of 4,78,292.73 acres of land. The details are as below:

| <b>Classification of land</b> | <b>Temple Lands</b> | <b>Mutt Lands</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| (Acre in lakhs)               |                     |                   |              |
| Wet                           | 1.83                | 0.21              | 2.04         |
| Dry                           | 2.18                | 0.35              | 2.53         |
| Maanavari                     | 0.21                | Nil               | 0.21         |
| Total                         | 4.22                | 0.56              | 4.78         |

37. Buildings in 22,600 sites and vacant sites in 33,665 places owned by Hindu Religious Institutions are leased out. Further, the agricultural lands are leased out to 1,23,729 tenants. For the last 3 years Rs.213.32 crore income received from the immovable assets. In the year 2013-2014 approximately Rs.80.19 crore income is obtained.

### **Fixation of Fair Rent**

38. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for fixation of fair rent for the buildings and sites belonging to Hindu Religious institutions. Accordingly, a committee consisting of the Regional Joint Commissioner, Executive Officer or Trustee or Chairman, Board of Trustees and the District Registrar of the Registration Department has been formed to fix fair rent for the buildings and sites used for commercial and residential purposes.

## Revenue Courts

39. Revenue courts are functioning with Special Deputy Collectors in order to file cases regarding collection of arrears of land lease revenue, fixation of fair rent for the agricultural lands and eviction of the lessees, who are in default. The details are as below:

| REVENUE COURTS  | CAMPING REVENUE COURTS                |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1.Thanjavur<br>2. Tiruchirappalli<br>3.Mayiladuthurai<br>4.Tiruvarur<br>5.Cuddalore<br>6. Madurai<br>7.Lalgudi<br>8.Mannargudi,<br>9.Nagapattinam<br>10.Tirunelveli | 1. Kumbakonam<br>2.Salem<br>3.Tenkasi |

40. Among the above Revenue Courts under the instructions of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** 4 Revenue Courts at Lalgudi, Mannargudi,

Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli have been formed during the year 2012-2013 and are functioning.

During 2013-2014, Rs. 134.94 lakh of lease arrears have been ordered for collection in 737 cases out of 5098 cases pending. As per the order Rs.40.90 lakh was collected. In the past 3 years Rs.181.45 lakh lease arrears were collected. Necessary steps are being taken for collecting the entire lease arrears.

### **Retrieval of Lands**

41. During the implementation of Updating Registry Scheme (UDR Scheme), the pattas of temple lands were wrongly transferred in the names of private individuals. To rectify this, two District Revenue Officers have been posted as Special Officers at Madurai and Coimbatore.

42. In the past 3 years, Pattas of 2790.35 acres of temple lands belonging to 357 temples wrongly transferred in the names of private persons, were restored in the names of temples



by the government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**. In the year 2013-2014 alone pattas of 1791.83 acres of lands belonging to 169 temples were ordered to be restored to the temples.

43. Similarly, the Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** after finding that in computerized chitta, the registration of temple lands was changed and entered in the names of private persons ordered restoration of pattas to temples. Pattas of 544.16 acres of lands belonging to 109 temples were restored in the past 3 years. In 2013-2014 alone, 150.74 acres of land belonging to 47 temples found in the name of the private persons were ordered to be restored to temples.

44. As stated above, steps are being taken state wide to find out and restore temple lands whose pattas are wrongfully issued to private

individuals and wrongfully registered in the computerised Chitta and 'A' Register.

**Appointment of retired Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Surveyors**

45. To restore the pattas of the temple lands transferred wrongly in the name of private individuals, 2 District Revenue Officers have been appointed at Madurai and Coimbatore respectively. Apart from this, action has been taken to create posts of 5 District Revenue Officers. To speed up the work of the District Revenue Officers, 6 retired Deputy Collectors, 10 retired Tahsildars and 3 retired Surveyors have been appointed. The Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ordered to appoint 7 more retired Tahsildars and 16 retired Surveyors on consolidated pay. During the year 2012-2013, 4 retired Tahsildars and 5 retired Surveyors have been additionally appointed as stated above to

speed up the work related to restoration of pattas in the names of temples.

### **Removal of Encroachments**

46. The Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** after assuming office, has taken action in the past 3 years and encroachments of temple lands to the extent of 1564.75 acres of land, 286.1004 grounds of sites and 76.2375 grounds of buildings, were cleared and brought back to the possession of temples. Total value of these assets are approximately Rs.1687.44 crore. In this for the year 2013-2014 alone 1167.24 acres of cultivated lands, 181.840 grounds sites and 28.885 grounds area buildings were taken possession. Their total value being approximately Rs.929.67 crore.

### **Regularising Group Encroachments**

47. Steps were taken to regularize the persons who have encroached temple lands in

groups and living there for more than 30 years as tenants subject to the following conditions:

- i. The land must have been utilized over 30 years for residential purpose only.
- ii. The fair rent fixed as per relevant Government Order should be agreed.
- iii. The fair rent has to be given effect from 01.07.1998
- iv. The rent due must be remitted in equal instalments in a period of 12 months.
- v. 10 months rent has to be paid as donation.

48. After the Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** took charge in the past 3 years 3253 encroachers were regularized as tenants who had occupied 142.11 acres of land. No objection certificates were issued to them to avail facilities such as drinking water and electricity. In the year 2013-2014 alone 1146

encroachers squatting in the area of 55.14 acres of land were regularised.

### **Annadanam scheme**

49. “மண்டிணி ஞாலத்து வாழ்வோர்க் கெல்லாம்  
உண்டி கொடுத்தோர் உயிர் கொடுத்தோரே” –

மணிமேகலைக் காப்பியம்

The finest among the schemes, the Annadanam Scheme was inaugurated on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2002 at Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple by the **Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.**

50. This noble Scheme of providing Annadanam was implemented in 360 temples during the previous regime of **Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.** During 2006-2011, this scheme was extended only for 2 temples.

51. During 2011-2012, as ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** this laudable scheme was extended further to 106 temples. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, this scheme has been extended further during the year 2012-2013 to 50 more temples, considering the inflow of devotees and their requirement. This scheme was revitalized through some corrective measures to improve the quality of food and service. The scheme which has been neglected in the past 5 years has been revitalised and is being implemented in 518 temples to the appreciation of scholars and masses. Every day 46,428 devotees are benefited and Rs.9.16 lakh is being spent per day.

#### **Day long Annadanam**

52. **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** graciously inaugurated the Day Long Annadanam Scheme

at Srirangam, Arulmighu Aranganathaswamy Temple on 13.9.2012. Simultaneously, this scheme has been inaugurated at Palani, Arulmighu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple. About 7765 devotees are being benefitted daily under this scheme and a sum of Rs. 1.72 lakh spent daily. Devotees can have food at any time from morning 8 a.m. to night 10 p.m. This scheme has won kudos from devotees.

### **Spiritual and moral classes**

53. As desired by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, spiritual and moral classes will be conducted on all Saturdays in all important temples to make our children imbibe the high moral and ethical values enshrined in our ancient literature through stories which embody our cultural heritage and tradition. These children will be provided with snacks during such classes and awards will be distributed to the best children. So far 25,920 students have benefitted from participation in these classes.

During the year 2013-2014, 9431 students have participated in the spiritual and moral classes at 485 temples.

### **Special Poojas and Common Feasts**

54. Every year Special poojas and Common feasts are being conducted in temples on Independence Day and Perarignar Anna Memorial Day inviting participation of the people from various communities without discrimination. During 2013-2014, Special Poojas and common feasts were conducted in 739 temples.

### **Elephant Rejuvenation Camp**

55. In tune with the sublime concept of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** reflected in the lines **"Like human beings all other living beings also deserve the same mercy and kindness"**, an elephant camp was organized



well in a cool and natural environment suitable for the elephants.

Special Rejuvenation camps for Elephants were organized during 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the elephants maintained by individuals and temples in a cool environment conducive to elephants. This camp approach given up during the past years was restored and conducted on 14.12.2011 for 48 days at Mudumalai Theppakkadu. During the year 2012-2013 this camp was organized on the banks of the Bhavani River near Thekkampatti Arulmighu Vanabadrakaliamman Temple at Mettupalayam in Coimbatore District. 34 Temple Elephants from Tamil Nadu and 2 elephants from a temple belonging to Pondicherry Union Territory participated and underwent rejuvenation in the camp. During the year 2013-2014 this camp was organized on the banks of the Bhavani River near Thekkampatti Arulmighu Vanabadrakaliamman Temple at Mettupalayam

in Coimbatore District. In this camp 31 temple and Mutt elephants from Tamil Nadu along with 18 elephants from Forest Department, 2 elephants from Pondicherry Union Territory and 1 from Nagur Dharga totally 52 elephants participated. 11 elephants of temples and mutts which were unable to participate in this camp in addition to 37 elephants of Forest Department were also given the same nutritious food and medicines as supplied in the camp for better physical and mental health. In this camp, training was given not only for elephants but also for the mahouts who were taught on safety and maintenance of elephants to keep them healthy. The Government sanctioned a grant of Rs.91 lakh for this camp.

### **Marriage Scheme for the Poor and Downtrodden**

56. This noble Scheme of marriages for the poor and downtrodden people belonging to the Hindu religion was first launched in 1981 by

the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. People belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes benefitted under this Scheme. **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** performed the marriages of 1008 couples in 2002 and 1053 couples in 2003 at Tiruverkadu. Further, marriages were also conducted for 489 couples in few temples. This noble Scheme was given up during the previous regime. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, during the year 2012-2013, marriages for 1006 couples have been conducted on 18.6.2012 at a venue near Tiruverkadu temple in a fitting manner by providing 4 grams of Gold for Thirumangalyam and wedding gifts worth Rs. 10,000/- each. A sum of Rs. 1.51 crore has been spent for this scheme. Steps are being taken to conduct this scheme effectively.

## **Cable Cars**

57. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, Cable Car was first introduced at an estimate of Rs. 4 crore in Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple for the benefit of the devotees on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2004. Following the appreciation received from the devotees for this cable car facility, it has been decided to provide one more international standard cable car for Palani and expression of interest was called for globally. After selection of qualified agencies, tenders have been called for and under consideration. Estimates for a sum of Rs.9.30 crore have been approved to provide new cable car for Sholinghur Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple and estimates have been approved for Rs.6 crore for providing new cable car to Karur, Ayyarmalai, Arulmighu Rathinagireeswarar Temple.

## Battery Cars

58. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated a 6 seater Battery car on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple for the benefit of the differently abled and elders. Further Battery cars have been introduced in the following 9 temples. This scheme is much appreciated by devotees.

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Temple Name</b>                                | <b>No. of Battery cars</b> |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1.             | Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy temple.      | 2                          |
| 2.             | Palani, Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy temple.      | 3                          |
| 3.             | Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple      | 1                          |
| 4.             | Tiruttani, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple.       | 1                          |
| 5.             | Tiruvarur, Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy temple.       | 1                          |
| 6.             | Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple. | 1                          |

| Sl. No. | Temple Name  | No. of Battery car |
|---------|--|--------------------|
| 7.      | Tiruvotriyur, Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy temple.                         | 1                  |
| 8.      | Tiruvanaikkaval, Arulmigu Akhilandeswari sametha Jambukeswarar temple. | 1                  |
| 9.      | Madurai, Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple.                      | 1                  |
|         | Total  | 12                 |

### **Government Grant for Kanyakumari District temples**

59. Understanding the shortage of funds in the administration of Kanyakumari District incorporated and unincorporated temples which includes 490 temples, 1 Women's college, 1 Higher Secondary School, and 2 High Schools **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered the annual government grant of Rs.1 crore to be raised to Rs.3 crore for better administration.

## **Tiruppani (Conservation, Restoration and Renovation)**

### **60. “Whosoever lays a brick for temple construction Will rule the world”**

As per this proverbial saying, the most important task for the government headed by **Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** is to renovate the historical, ancient temples, holy shrines glorified by the hymns of the Alwars and Nayanmars, village temples and temples located in the habitats of Adi Dravidar Communities.

61. Temple conservation, restoration and renovation is carried out based on the following financial sources.

- Public Donation
- Own funds of the temple.
- Diversion of surplus funds
- Government Grant
- Common Good Fund
- Temple Development fund

- Village Temple Renovation/restoration fund
- Temple renovation/restoration and Charitable fund
- Renovation/Restoration by Donors themselves
- Renovation/restoration fund for Temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal people
- Finance Commission Fund

62. Wherever a donor volunteers to take up the responsibility of renovating temples, financial assistance is also provided by the department.

### **Donation**

63. Renovation/restorations are carried out from the donations voluntarily contributed by industrialists, private institutions, wealthy persons, common public and persons having faith in divinity, spirituality and religious affinity. After the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed charge estimates for a value of Rs. 29.39 crore in 503 temples were sanctioned. During 2013-2014,



estimates for a value of Rs. 6.61 crore were sanctioned to carry out 145 works in 52 temples.

### **Temple Funds**

64. Affluent temples carry out Renovation/restoration from their own surplus funds. After the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed charge Rs.156.86 crore was allotted from the temple funds for renovation/restoration of 551 temples. During 2013-2014, Rs.29.68 crore was allotted from the temple funds for renovation/restoration of 126 temples.

### **Diversion of Funds**

65. According to Section 36 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the temples requiring financial assistance for renovation/restoration receive funds from the surplus funds of the affluent temples by way of diversion. After the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed

charge, financial assistance of Rs. 11.75 crore was sanctioned for 98 temples. During 2013-2014, financial assistance of Rs. 1.14 crore was sanctioned for 11 temples.

### **Government Grant**

66. Every year, a Government Grant of Rs.3 crore is given for temple renovation/restoration. In the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 Rs.6 crore was granted for renovation/restoration of 96 temples by the Government. This annual Government grant of Rs.3 crore was ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** to be increased to Rs.6 crore. On the basis of this Government Order, grant of Rs.6 crore will be disbursed for 70 temples for the year 2013-2014.

### **Common Good Fund**

67. Out of voluntary donations given by the individuals and the contributions made by the Hindu Religious Institutions, a separate fund

was created namely "Common Good fund" in the name of the Commissioner. After assuming charge, **the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** sanctioned Rs.36.12 crore for renovation/restoration work in 561 temples. During 2013-2014, Rs.12.79 crore has been sanctioned for renovation/ restoration work in 169 temples.

### **Temple Development Fund**

68. A corpus fund of Rs.8 Crore was created from the surplus funds of affluent temples for the development of temples. From the interest accruing from this corpus, financial assistance is rendered for the renovation/restoration of temples of ancient, historical significance. During the financial year of 2012-2013, Rs. 20 lakh was given to 2 temples under this scheme. In the year 2013-2014, Rs.30 lakh has been allotted for the renovation of one temple.

## **Village Temples Renovation Fund**

69. Small village temples under the control of the Department are provided with financial assistance for temple renovation/restoration under the "Village Temple Renovation Scheme" created for this purpose. A corpus of Rs.2 Crore was created by diversion from the surplus funds of Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy temple. From the interest derived from the corpus Rs.25,000/- was disbursed for renovation/restoration of each village temple. **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered enhancement of this assistance to Rs.50,000/- in 2012-2013 and a sum of Rs. 1.28 crore has been disbursed to 256 temples. During the year 2013-2014, a sum of Rs. 5.3 crore has been disbursed to 1006 temples.

## **Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund**

70. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** created a corpus namely, "Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance fund" on August 5<sup>th</sup> of 1991. **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated Rs. 1,00,008/- towards this fund from own funds. Donations were thereafter received from philanthropists, industrialists and the General Public. This fund is now called as "Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund." During 2013-2014, Rs.65.24 lakh was disbursed for the renovation/ restoration and maintenance of Kanniyakumari District Temples and the renovation/restoration of Arulmighu Sanjeevarayar Temple, Ayyangarkulam at Kancheepuram.

### **Donor Works**

71. It is common practice that donors voluntarily carry out the temple renovation/restoration from

their own funds under the supervision of the Department. After assuming charge the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** sanctioned works at an estimate of Rs.48.04 crore in 190 temples. During 2013-2014, 78 renovation/restoration works were sanctioned in 61 temples at an estimate of Rs.16.97 crore.

**Renovation For The Temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal community**

72. A financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/- per temple is provided for the renovation/restoration of temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal communities from out of the funds received from the surplus funds of the affluent temples. Since the amount per temple is insufficient for executing the scheme, the financial assistance was raised to Rs. 50,000/ per temple. In the last 3 years Rs.8.15 crore was given to 1630

temples. During the year 2013-2014, Rs. 5.03 crore was given to 1006 temples.

#### **Finance Commission Fund**

73. The Central Finance Commission is rendering financial assistance for renovating ancient temples without tampering their heritage value. After assuming charge the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, obtained sanction of Rs.22.50 crore for 4 years from 2011-12 onwards at the total cost of Rs.90 crore from 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. For the last 3 years Rs.67.50 crore was given to 183 temples. Rs.22.50 crore was sanctioned for 2013-2014 for 46 temples.

#### **Tourism Fund**

74. The temples in Tamil Nadu are major tourist attractions. For the welfare of the devotees and tourists visiting the temples, the temple administration and the Tourism Department jointly provide basic amenities such

as toilets, bath rooms, drinking water, dormitories, information centres, approach roads, high mast lamps, Cloak rooms, provision of lawns and parking facilities. After **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed charge Rs.7.86 crore were allotted for 16 temples for providing tourist facilities. During the year 2013-2014 Rs.4.40 crore of Tourism fund was allotted for development work of 5 temples.

### **Uzhavarapani**

75. The ancient temples in Tamil Nadu are proudly standing as historical monuments having tall towers, beautiful domes, large corridors and huge walls. It is our bounden duty to preserve and protect them. The vegetation growing on these old constructions are heavily damaging them. The traditional method of cleansing the temple premises called "Uzhavarapani" once launched by Saint Appar Adigal one of the four leading exponents of the



Saiva School was re-launched in 2011-2012 with a view to introduce the spirit of service, after this Government took over. Through this programme, eradication of weeds and vegetation was carried out in 1947 temples during these 2 years. During the year 2013-2014 through this programme, eradication of weeds and vegetation was carried out in 745 temples. Further, this programme is to be implemented continuously in temples.

### **Consecration of Temples**

76. According to Agama Shastras (texts), every temple has to be consecrated once in 12 years. On this basis, temples are classified into the following four categories for renovation and consecrations.

- Ancient Temples glorified by the hymns of Alwars and Nayanmars.
- Temples historically popular and having tourist significance.

- Temples popular for fulfilling the wishes and vows of the devotees.
- Small Temples located in the villages and in the habitations of Adi Dravidas and Scheduled Tribes.

77. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, Kumbabishekams have been performed in 2439 temples during 2013-2014 and 5351 temples in the past 3 years. This scheme will be executed every year with special concentration.

**I. Renovation and restoration works in the temples of heritage value – Expert Committee**

78. Under the orders of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** in order to give advice on archaeological matters and expert opinion in the renovation/restoration works in the temples of heritage value under the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission grant Thiru.K.T.Narasiman, retired Superintending Archaeologist of Central

Archaeological Department who is a well known expert in Archaeology has been appointed as Heritage and Conservation Advisor. The following expert committee has also been constituted to help in this matter. Under the guidance of the Archaeological expert or the committee or any member of the committee archaeological and heritage renovation / restoration works are carried out in temples.

1. Dr.R. Kannan, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department in his capacity as Conservation Archeologist and Museologist.
2. Dr. S. Vasanthi, Commissioner in charge, Department of Archeology.
3. Dr.G. Maheswari, Superintending Archeologist, Archeological Survey of

India, Chennai circle, Fort Saint George, Chennai

4. Smt. K. Moortheswari, Deputy Superintending Archeologist, Archeological Survey of India, Chennai circle, Fort Saint George, Chennai

## **II. Restoration and maintenance of Heritage paintings**

79. The following advisory and supervisory committee was ordered to be formed by **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, for restoration and maintenance of heritage paintings found in 50 temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Mrs. Sreelatha Rao, Assistant Superintending Archeological Chemist, ASI, Chennai.    |
| 2. | Mr.Veeraragavan, Deputy Superintending Archeological Chemist(Retd) ASI               |
| 3. | Smt. K. Moortheeswari, Deputy Superintending Archeologist, Fort Museum ASI, Chennai. |
| 4. | Dr.L. Rajeswari, Deputy Superintending Archeologist Chemist, ASI, Trissur, Kerala    |
| 5. | Thiru. I.Madhva Sharma, Ex.A.S.I, Chemical Conservationist                           |
| 6. | Additional Commissioner (Thiruppani), HR&CE Department                               |

On the advice of this committee the conservation of wall paintings in the Rajagopurams of the following two temples at an estimate of Rs.0.81 crore in Kanyakumari District Sucheendram, Arulmigu Thanumalayaswami Temple and at an estimate of Rs.1.42 crore in Tirunelveli District Thirupudaimarudur Arulmigu Narumbunathaswami Temple has been taken up.

## **Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting**

80. There are 2359 temple tanks located in 1586 temples across the state. Out of them, 1068 tanks were identified for repairs and renovation/restorations. 599 temple tanks have been renovated at Rs.2.49 crore by this Government. The remaining temple tanks will be repaired and renovated shortly. In the year 2013-2014 the Department of Environment granted financial assistance of Rs.3.76 crore for renovation/restoration of 11 temple tanks. In 2013-14 alone 60 temple tanks were renovated. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** a special drive for rejuvenating 5400 Rain Water Harvesting Structures and 1004 temple tanks was conducted in May-June 2014

81. The temple tanks will be protected as per this scheme by the following measures:

- Clearing the encroachments in and around the temple tanks.
- Putting up the compound wall around the tanks.
- Deepening and desilting the temple tanks.
- Re-laying the steps of the temple tanks.
- Providing facility for the inflow of rainwater into temple tanks and overflow channel for surplus water.

### **Revival Of Kaala Poojas In Ancient Temples**

82. This scheme was evolved with a view to set right the setbacks in the performance of Kaala Poojas at temples that are glorified by the hymns of Alwars and Nayanmars. This scheme provides means for performing Kaala Poojas at temples utilizing the surplus funds of the affluent temples. Under this scheme, 50 needy temples received financial assistance from the funds of 19 affluent temples during 2001-2006. This

scheme was not in operation during 2006-2011. After the Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, took charge this scheme was revived. In the year 2013-14, 10 temples were granted Rs.2.28 lakh. Steps are being taken to disburse funds for more temples under this scheme.

### **Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme**

83. This scheme was launched in 1986 to perform Oru Kaala Pooja in temples which were not in a position to conduct pooja even once daily. To enable the public to participate in this scheme, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** during 1993 issued an order that when a contribution of Rs. 2,500/- is received from the public, Rs. 20,000/- from the surplus funds of the affluent temples, Rs.1,300/- from the temple renovation / restoration and charitable endowment funds and Rs.1,200/- from the temple welfare fund will be



contributed thus making a total of Rs.25,000/- to be deposited as fixed deposit under this scheme.

84. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** considering that the interest amount from the deposit of Rs. 25,000/- is not sufficient, has ordered for the increase of the permanent deposit (corpus) to Rs. 1,00,000/- for every temple. Under this 11,931 temples were benefitted. This scheme has been carried out by an allotment of an 'one time government grant' of Rs. 59.48 crore and by allotting Rs. 30 crore diverted from the surplus fund of 41 affluent temples. Further 714 temples are going to be additionally benefitted under this scheme.

85. At present, if any member of the public contributes Rs. 10,000/- for any needy temple, the department will contribute Rs. 90,000/- and Rs. 1 lakh corpus will be

created in the name of such temple to ensure the performance of orukala pooja.

### **Maintenance Of Temple Cars**

86. There are 989 wooden cars in 809 temples under the control of this Department. A corpus of Rs. 10.50 crore was created for the renovation/restoration of temple cars from the surplus funds of affluent temples in February 2006.

87. After this Government assumed office, the road blocks in the renovation/restoration of temple cars were removed by raising both the labour charges fixed for artisans and the cost of wood. As a result of this, 99 temple cars have been repaired, renovated and put in use. During the year 2013-2014, 21 temple cars have been repaired. Renovation/restoration of temple cars has been expedited and the remaining 204 cars will also be repaired soon.

88. In order to safeguard the temple cars, steps have been taken to provide roofs which are fire proof, provision of iron wheels and steel axles and to insure both the cars as well as the persons who are engaged in dragging the car.

To avoid untoward incidents during temple car festivals, guidelines for safety have been implemented. Insurance is provided to the devotees who pull the car and temple car itself.

89. After the Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed office in the last 3 years Rs.6.11 crore was given for 106 temples for renovation/restoration of temple cars. During the year 2013-2014, Rs.3.73 crore was given for renovation/restoration of 59 temple cars.

## Temples with Golden Cars and Silver Cars

90. It is a customary practice that the devotees pull the Golden or Silver Car mounted with the processional deity to fulfil their vows.

91. At present there are 51 temples with Golden Cars and 40 temples with Silver Cars.

| <b>Temples with golden cars</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1.                              | Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy temple, Palani.            |
| 2.                              | Arulmigu Kandaswamy temple, Poonga Nagar, Chennai.      |
| 3.                              | Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar temple, Vadapalani, Chennai. |
| 4.                              | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Tiruttani.             |
| 5.                              | Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman temple, Tiruverkadu.        |
| 6.                              | Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy temple, Swamimalai.            |
| 7.                              | Arulmigu Vaithyanathaswamy temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.   |
| 8.                              | Arulmigu Vinayagar temple, Echanari, Coimbatore.        |
| 9.                              | Arulmigu Mariamman temple, Samayapuram, Trichy.         |
| 10.                             | Arulmigu Meenakshisundareswarar temple, Madurai.        |
| 11.                             | Arulmigu Sankaranarayanawamy temple, Sankarankoil.      |

| <b>Temples with golden cars</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 12.                             | Arulmigu Subramania swamy temple, Tiruchendur.                        |
| 13.                             | Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal temple, Nanguneri.                       |
| 14.                             | Arulmigu Kamatchiamman temple, Kancheepuram.                          |
| 15.                             | Arulmigu Balamurugan temple, Rathinagiri.                             |
| 16.                             | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Sivanmalai.                          |
| 17.                             | Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar temple, Mylapore, Chennai.                     |
| 18.                             | Arulmigu Kamakshiamman temple, Mangadu.                               |
| 19.                             | Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy temple, Rameswaram.                           |
| 20.                             | Arulmigu Madurakaliamman temple, Siruvachur.                          |
| 21.                             | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Maruthamalai.                        |
| 22.                             | Arulmigu Bannarimariamman temple, Bannari.                            |
| 23.                             | Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai.                     |
| 24.                             | Arulmigu Maruntheeswarar temple, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai.               |
| 25.                             | Arulmigu Velayuthaswamy temple, Thindalmalai, Erode.                  |
| 26.                             | Arulmigu Anantha Padmanabhaswamy temple, Adayar, Chennai.             |
| 27.                             | Arulmigu Karunellinathaswamy temple, Tiruthangal, Sivakasi.           |
| 28.                             | Arulmigu Mundagakanniamman temple, Mylapore, Chennai.                 |
| 29.                             | Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi swamy temple, Uppiliappankoil, Kumbakonam. |

| <b>Temples with golden cars</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 30.                             | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Tiruparankundram.                    |
| 31.                             | Arulmigu Mariamman temple, Karur.                                     |
| 32.                             | Arulmigu Dandumariamman temple, Coimbatore.                           |
| 33.                             | Arulmigu Chandrachudeswarar temple, Hosur.                            |
| 34.                             | Arulmigu Jambukeswarar and Akilandeswariamman temple, Tiruvanaikaval. |
| 35.                             | Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswamy temple, Namakal.                              |
| 36.                             | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Pachaimalai, Gobichettipalayam.      |
| 37.                             | Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kaliyamman temple, Ariyakurchi.                  |
| 38.                             | Arulmigu Nelliappar Kanthimathiamman temple, Tirunelveli.             |
| 39.                             | Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai. |
| 40.                             | Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal.             |
| 41.                             | Arulmigu Vekkaiyamman temple, Uraiyur, Trichy.                        |
| 42.                             | Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar temple, Salem.                                |
| 43.                             | Arulmigu Kottaimariamman temple, Salem.                               |
| 44.                             | Arulmigu Murugan temple, Solaimalai Mandapam (Alagarkoil), Madurai.   |
| 45.                             | Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha swamy temple, Sholingar, Vellore.          |
| 46.                             | Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy temple, Tiruvotriyur, Tiruvallur.            |
| 47.                             | Arulmigu Kottaimariamman temple, Dindigul.                            |
| 48.                             | Arulmigu Angalaparameswari temple, Melmalaiyanur, Villpuram.          |

| <b>Temples with golden cars</b> |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 49.                             | Arulmigu Kondathukaliamman temple, Pariyur, Erode.               |
| 50.                             | Arulmigu Kandaswamy temple, Tiruporur, Chenglepet, Kancheepuram. |
| 51.                             | Arulmigu Masaniamman temple, Anamalai, Coimbatore.               |
| <b>Temples with silver cars</b> |  |
| 1.                              | Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy temple, Palani.                     |
| 2.                              | Arulmigu Subramania swamy temple, Tiruchendur.                   |
| 3.                              | Arulmigu Meenakshisundaeswar temple, Madurai.                    |
| 4.                              | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Tiruttani.                      |
| 5.                              | Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy temple, Rameswaram.                      |
| 6.                              | Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai.                |
| 7.                              | Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy temple, Swamimalai.                     |
| 8.                              | Arulmigu Nellaiyappar and Kanthimathiamman temple, Tirunelveli.  |
| 9.                              | Arulmigu Padaleeswarar temple, Tirupathiripuliyur.               |
| 10.                             | Arulmigu Vaithyanathaswamy temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.            |
| 11.                             | Arulmigu Chattanathaswamy temple, Sirkazhi.                      |
| 12.                             | Arulmigu Mayuranathaswamy temple, Mayiladuthurai.                |
| 13.                             | Arulmigu Mariamman , Angalamman temple, Pollachi.                |

| <b>Temples with silver cars</b> |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 14.                             | Arulmigu Prasanna Vinayagar temple, Udumalaipettai.                 |
| 15.                             | Arulmigu Devikarumariamman temple, Tiruverkadu.                     |
| 16.                             | Arulmigu Kolanjiappar temple, Manavalanallur.                       |
| 17.                             | Arulmigu Ekambaranathar temple, Kancheepuram.                       |
| 18.                             | Arulmigu Kamatchiamman temple, Kancheepuram.                        |
| 19.                             | Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy temple, Park Town, Chennai.               |
| 20.                             | Arulmigu Tiruvenkadamudayan temple, Ariyakurichi.                   |
| 21.                             | Arulmigu Subramania swamy temple, Kundrakudi.                       |
| 22.                             | Arulmigu Meenakshisundareswarar temple, Keelasevelpatti.            |
| 23.                             | Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman temple, Natarasankottai.            |
| 24.                             | Arulmigu Koppudaya Nayagiamman temple, Karaikudi.                   |
| 25.                             | Arulmigu Nagarasivan (a) Meenakshisundareswarar temple, Devakottai. |
| 26.                             | Arulmigu Muthumariamman temple, Konnaiyur, Tirumayam.               |
| 27.                             | Arulmigu Aruthra Kapaleeswarar temple, Erode.                       |
| 28.                             | Arulmigu Sangameswarar temple, Bhavani.                             |
| 29.                             | Arulmigu Palaniandavar temple, Bhavani.                             |
| 30.                             | Arulmigu Balasubramaniaswamy temple, Aayakudi, Tirunelveli.         |



| <b>Temples with silver cars</b> |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 31.                             | Arulmigu Madurakaliamman temple, Thottiyam.                                      |
| 32.                             | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Neyveli, Panrutti                               |
| 33.                             | Arulmigu Veyuluku uganda vinayagar temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram.                |
| 34.                             | Arulmigu Soundararajaperumal temple, Dindigul.                                   |
| 35.                             | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram.                     |
| 36.                             | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam.                         |
| 37.                             | Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dandayuthapaniswamy temple, Chettikulam, Perambalur. |
| 38.                             | Arulmigu Muthumariamman temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai.                           |
| 39.                             | Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint Street, Chennai.                            |
| 40.                             | Arulmigu Katchabeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram.                                    |

### **Basic Amenities**

#### **Drinking water**

92. Steps have been taken for providing safe drinking water for the devotees visiting temples. After the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu Puratchi Thalavi Amma** assumed charge 118 temples were provided with safe

drinking water at a cost of Rs.1.60 crore. During 2013-2014, 7 temples were provided with safe drinking water at a cost of Rs.0.20 crore.

### **Modern Toilet Facilities**

93. Steps have been taken to provide separate modern toilet facilities for Men and Women visiting temples. After this Government assumed charge construction of toilets was undertaken at a cost of Rs. 6.46 crore in 87 temples. During 2013-2014, construction of 99 toilets for Men and 108 toilets for Women at a cost of Rs. 1.58 crore was undertaken in 30 temples.

### **Facilities for stay**

94. Cottages, rooms, and dormitories, alongwith cloak rooms and parking lots are dedicated to the devotees visiting temples. After the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu Puratchi Thalavi Amma** assumed charge

boarding/lodging facilities for devotees at an estimate of Rs.57.91 crore in 12 temples were approved for construction. During the year 2013-2014 an estimate of Rs.8 crore for 9 dormitories approved for construction at Palani, Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy temple.

Apart from that "Yatri Nivas" consisting of cottages, dormitories, hotel, restaurants with an accommodation facility for 1000 pilgrim tourists at a time has been constructed at Srirangam at a cost of Rs.47.09 crore from the funds of Srirangam Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple and Samayapuram Arulmigu Mariamman Temple was inaugurated by **Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu Puratchi Thalavi Amma** on 30.6.2014.

### **Temple cleanliness**

95. In order to maintain the cleanliness in the temples, the house keeping of the temple premises has been outsourced. As a result of

this, cleaning in 110 big temples was undertaken by outsourcing, which has resulted in a high level of cleanliness. Steps have been taken to extend the scheme to the other temples also where large number of devotees and tourists visit.

### **Distribution of Sarees and Dhotis**

96. In important temples, cotton sarees and dhoties received as offerings are distributed to the elderly persons, destitute and widows on Independence Day and Arignar Anna's Memorial Day on the occasion of common feast. After this Government assumed charge 13220 persons benefited by this scheme. During 2013-2014, 5579 persons were beneficiaries. Steps are being taken to increase the beneficiaries annually during the above said days.

### **Manasarovar and Mukthinath**

97. It is the belief of every Hindu that they should go on a holy yatra to Manasarovar and Mukthinath atleast once in their life time to achieve spiritual bliss. The cost of this yatra is

very expensive. Understanding the aspirations of the people as soon as the Government headed by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu Puratchi Thalavi Amma** assumed charge a grant of Rs.40,000/- on completion of yatra to Manasarovar lake in China and Rs.10,000/- on completion of yatra to Mukthinath in Nepal for Hindus residing in Tamil Nadu has been ordered to be given for 250 devotees every year. For 2012-2013, Rs.58.40 lakh was given to 146 pilgrims who performed the Manasarovar yatra. Rs.1 lakh was released to 10 pilgrims who performed the Mukthinath yatra. For 2013-2014, Rs.125 lakh is ready for distribution to 250 pilgrims who completed each of the yatras.

### **Safety of Icons and Valuables**

98. To safeguard the icons, jewels and valuables of the temples, safety measures such as, installation of Burglar Alarms, Tell Tale Clocks, Inner Locking Systems, fixing Iron Gates, Closed Circuit Television, appointment of

Night Watchmen and appointment of personnel from the temple protection force have been adopted in 1200 temples.

### **Scheme for installation of Burglar Alarm**

99. Under the burglar alarm installation scheme a Central Fund of Rs.5 crore was created. Under this scheme the Department will sanction 75% of the requirement of the needy temple who apply for grant for installation of burglar alarms in the temples from the interest received from the Central Fund, 25% of the requirement has to be borne by the temple from either its own funds or donor funds. Realising that most of the temples in villages have paucity of funds and that they possess invaluable icons, jewels and expensive items and that this Department's primary duty is to protect these temples, as directed by **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** orders were issued to release 100% grant from the interest received from the Central fund for the installation of burglar alarms. This year Rs.5.45 lakh grant was allotted for 31 temples.

## ICON CENTRES

100. In order to protect the valuable Icons of the temples "Icon Centres" have been built up. Icons of temples having inadequate protections are being safeguarded therein. Provision has been made to take out the Icons of temples from the centre for conducting festivals and return for safe custody after festival. Poojas are performed for all the Icons at the centres.

### Details of Icon centres

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Icon Centre, Tiruvarur (Arulmighu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple campus)            |
| 2. | Arulmighu Akilandeshwari and Jambukeshwarar Temple, Tiruvanaikkaval, Trichy. |
| 3. | Arulmighu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli.                  |
| 4. | Arulmighu Sugavaneswarar Temple, Salem.                                      |
| 5. | Arulmighu Muthumariamman Temple, Gandhinagar, Vellore.                       |
| 6. | Arulmighu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai                            |
| 7. | Arulmighu Ekambareswarar Temple, Kanchipuram.                                |
| 8. | Arulmighu Padaleeswarar Temple, Tiruppadiripuliyur, Cuddalore.               |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 9.  | Arulmighu Naganathaswamy Temple,<br>Thirunageswaram, Kumbakonam.    |
| 10. | Arulmighu Patteeswaraswamy Temple, Perur,<br>Coimbatore.            |
| 11. | Arulmighu Brahadambal Temple,<br>Tirugokarnam, Pudukottai.          |
| 12. | Arulmighu Tiruvappudaiyar Temple, Chellur,<br>Madurai               |
| 13. | Arulmighu Sundarraja Perumal Temple,<br>Sivagangai.                 |
| 14. | Arulmighu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple,<br>Tiruvarur (Additional centre) |
| 15. | Arulmighu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple,<br>Tiruvotriyur.                 |
| 16. | Arulmighu Subramaniaswamy Temple,<br>Tiruttani.                     |
| 17. | Arulmighu Kaliyamman Temple,<br>Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri.        |
| 18. | Arulmighu Anjaneyaswamy Temple,<br>Villupuram.                      |
| 19. | Arulmighu Nachiyar (Andal) Temple,<br>Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar. |

Further **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** to protect the invaluable icons and jewels has ordered for construction of the following 12 "Icon Centres" for which works are in progress.



|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Arulmigu Kaliamman temple, Thanthondrimalai, Karur.   |
| 2.  | Arulmigu Alanthuraiyar and Kothandaramaswamy temple, Ariyalur.  |
| 3.  | Arulmigu Madhanagopalaswamy and Brahmapureeswarar temple, Perambalur.   |
| 4.  | Arulmigu Kayaroganaswamy Udanurai Neelayathatchiamman temple, Nagapattinam.   |
| 5.  | At Thanjavur Joint Commissioner's office backside.  |
| 6.  | Arulmigu Malaikavalar temple, Tiruchengode (Sub temple of Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar temple)                                 |
| 7.  | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Sivanmalai.  |
| 8.  | Arulmigu Soleeswarar Prasanna Venkatramanaswamy temple, Perundurai.   |
| 9.  | Arulmigu Srinivasaperumal temple, Dindigul.   |
| 10. | Arulmigu Kowmariamman temple, Veerapandi.   |
| 11. | Arulmigu Venkatachalapathy temple, Krishnapuram, Palayamkottai (sub temple of Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple) |
| 12. | Arulmigu Nagaraja temple, Nagarkoil.  |

### **Temple Protection Force**

101. A separate wing namely "Temple Protection Force" has been formed for protecting the icons, jewels, hundials and valuables in the temples. Sanction was accorded for appointing

1000 Grade II Police Constables and 3000 Ex-servicemen in this force. During 2005-2006, 1000 Grade-II Police Constables and 2751 Ex-servicemen were serving in the temple protection force. Since adequate interest in the safety of temples was not shown in the past quinquennial period, the number of Ex-Servicemen have come down. To compensate this, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has raised the monthly consolidated pay from Rs. 1,500/- to Rs. 5,000/- to the Ex-Servicemen in the temple protection force.

### **Educational Institutions**

102. With the social object of inculcating culture, pious outlook etc. from a young age, religious and general education is imparted in the educational institutions run by temples. The temple administration along with their other obligations and responsibilities are running Patasalas, Colleges and schools.

| <b>Institution</b> |  | <b>No.</b> |
|--------------------|--|------------|
| 1.                 | Arts, Culture and Science Colleges               | 5          |
| 2.                 | Polytechnic College                              | 1          |
| 3.                 | Higher Secondary Schools                         | 15         |
| 4.                 | High Schools                                     | 8          |
| 5.                 | Middle Schools                                   | 2          |
| 6.                 | Elementary Schools                               | 9          |
| 7.                 | Matriculation School                             | 1          |
| 8.                 | CBSE School                                      | 1          |
| 9.                 | Nadaswaram and Thavil – Musical Training Schools | 2          |
| 10.                | Veda Agama Patasalas                             | 2          |
| 11.                | Odhuvar Training School                          | 1          |
| 12.                | Thevara Patasalas                                | 2          |
| 13.                | School for the Deaf and Dumb                     | 1          |
|                    | Total  | 50         |

### **List of Educational Institutions**

#### **Arts And Science Colleges**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts and Culture College, Palani, Dindigul District. |
| 2. | Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani, Dindigul District.   |
| 3. | Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Kuttralam, Tirunelveli District.          |
| 4. | Sri Devi Kumari College for Women, Kuzhithurai, Kanyakumari District.       |
| 5. | Poompuhar College, Melaiyur, Nagapattinam District.                         |

## Polytechnic college

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Arulmigu Palaniandavar Polytechnic College, Palani, Dindigul District. |
|----|--|

## Higher Secondary schools

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Arulmigu Periyannayagamman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur District.           |
| 2.  | Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai, Vadavalli, Coimbatore District.     |
| 3.  | Arulmigu Vazhaithottathaiyan Higher Secondary School, Ayyampalayam, Samalapuram, Somanur, Tiruppur District . |
| 4.  | Arulmigu Perur Santhalinga Adigalar Higher Secondary School, Perur, Coimbatore District.                      |
| 5.  | Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai District.                             |
| 6.  | Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniaswamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District.          |
| 7.  | Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumaraswami Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Kuttralam, Tirunelveli District.   |
| 8.  | Devasthanam Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu, Kanyakumari District.  |
| 9.  | Sri Kandimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli District.                        |
| 10. | T. Venugopal Chetty Higher Secondary School, Chennai, Chennai District.                                       |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 11. | Hindu Higher Secondary School, Chennai, Chennai District.   |
| 12. | Arulmigu Parvathavarthini Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District. |
| 13. | Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Tirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District.   |
| 14. | Sri Sivaprakasa Swamigal Higher Secondary School, Mayilam, Tindivanam, Vilupuram District.          |
| 15. | Arulmigu Parasakthi Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Kuttralam, Tirunelveli District.             |

### **High Schools**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Arulmigu Anjuvattathamman Girls High School, Kilvelur, Tiruvarur District.                  |
| 2. | Arulmigu Kaliyugavaratharaja Perumal Girls High School, Kallankurichi, Ariyalur District.   |
| 3. | Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Tirukkoil Girls High School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District. |
| 4. | Arulmigu Sundarraja High School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District.                             |
| 5. | Devaswom High School, Thirparappu, Kanyakumari District.                                    |
| 6. | Sri Thirugnana Sambandar High School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam District.                   |
| 7. | Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Devasthanam High School, Chennai, Chennai District.               |
| 8. | Devaswom High School, Kulithurai, Kanyakumari District.                                     |

### **Middle Schools**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Middle School, Tiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam District.                    |
| 2. | Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Ambalavana Desigar Middle School, Tiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam District. |

### **Elementary Schools**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Elementary School, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District. |
| 2. | Sankaranarayanawami Tirukkoil Elementary School, Sankarankoil, Tirunelveli District.    |
| 3. | Sri Meikandar Elementary School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District.                    |
| 4. | Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Aided Elementary School, Palani, Dindigul District.        |
| 5. | Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Elementary School, Tiruvidaimaruthur, Thanjavur District.      |
| 6. | Tirugnanasambandar Elementary School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam District.               |
| 7. | Arulmigu Sundarraja Elementary School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District.                   |
| 8. | Anjugam Elementary School, Kodambakkam, Chennai District.                               |
| 9. | Padamavathi Kannapiran Elementary School, Otteri, Chennai District.                     |

### **Matriculation School**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Palaniandavar Matriculation School, Palani, Dindigul District. |
|----|--|

### **CBSE School**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Parasakthi Vidyalaya, Kutralam, Tirunelveli District. |
|----|---|

### **Nathaswaram And Thavil Training School**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindugul District.      |
| 2. | Arulmigu Naganathaswami Tirukkovil, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District. |

### **Veda Agama Patasalas**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District.    |
| 2. | Arulmigu Subramanyaswami Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District. |

### **Oduvar Training School**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Arulmigu Meenakshisundareswarar temple, Madurai. |
|----|--|

### Thevaram Training Schools

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Dharmapura Adeenam, Dharmapuram, Mayiladuturai, Nagapattinam District.           |
| 2. | Maruthanayaga Mudaliar Annapoorani Ammal Trust, Coimbatore, Coimbatore District. |

### School For Hearing Impaired

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District. |
|----|--|

### Social Welfare Institutions

103. Temples are also a Social Welfare Unit apart from being a place of worship. For example, they also run Hospitals, Home for Mentally Disordered, Karunai Illangal and Old Age Homes. The details are as follows:

| S. No. | Social Welfare Institutions  | No. |
|--------|------------------------------|-----|
| 1.     | Karunai Illangal             | 33  |
| 2.     | Home for mentally disordered | 1   |
| 3.     | Old Age Homes                | 2   |
| 4.     | Siddha Hospitals             | 6   |
| 5.     | Allopathy Hospitals          | 2   |
|        | Total                        | 44  |



## **Karunai Illangal**

104. Karunai Illangal were started in financially affluent temples under the control of this Department to provide assistance such as food, shelter and education apart from showing love and care for the destitute children. There are 33 Karunai Illangal functioning in 30 temples, 22 for boys and 11 for girls. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered full fee exemption for the higher studies of the Karunai Illam students who have completed +2 studies in the Educational Institutions run by the temples and go for higher studies in Colleges under the control of the Department and 50% concession to those in other Educational Institutions. The funds will be provided by the temples. During the year 2012-2013, Rs.35,185/- was given to 9 students. During the year 2013-2014, Rs.1,54,808/- was given to 16 students.

105. After **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed charge necessary basic amenities have been upgraded for the children at Rs.2.12 crore in Karunai Illangal. During 2013-2014 necessary basic amenities have been upgraded for the children at Rs.60 lakh in Karunai Illangal. Every year Government gives grant to compensate the expenditure incurred for Karunai Illangal.

106. The Government grant of Rs.99,12,500/- was issued for running the Karunai Illangal after this Government took charge. In the year 2013-2014, alone Rs.19,12,500/- fund was released for upkeep of Karunai Illangal.

#### **DETAILS OF KARUNAI ILLANGAL**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Tirukkoil, Tiruverkadu, Tiruvallur District |
| 2. | Arulmigu Subramania Swami Tirukkoil, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District     |
| 3. | Arulmigu Dandayuthapani Swami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District      |

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 4.  | Arulmigu Mariamman Tirukkoil, Samayapuram, Tiruchy District                  |
| 5.  | Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Tirukkoil, Madurai, Madurai District        |
| 6.  | Arulmigu Subramania Swami Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District       |
| 7.  | Arulmigu Ramanatha Swami Tirukkoil, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.     |
| 8.  | Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Tirukkoil, Vadapalani, Chennai District          |
| 9.  | Arulmigu Subramania Swami Tirukkoil, Marudamalai, Coimbatore District        |
| 10. | Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Tirukkoil, Bannari, Erode District                |
| 11. | Arulmigu Kallazhagar Tirukkoil, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District.               |
| 12. | Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swami Tirukkoil, Sholingar, Vellore District      |
| 13. | Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Tirukkoil, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvannamalai District |
| 14. | Arulmigu Swaminatha Swami Tirukkoil, Swamimalai, Thanjavur District          |
| 15. | Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar Tirukkoil, Salem, Salem District                     |
| 16. | Arulmigu Vanabadra Kaliyamman Tirukkoil, Tekkampatti, Coimbatore District.   |
| 17. | Arulmigu Vazhaithottathu Ayyan Tirukkoil, Iyampalayam, Tiruppur District.    |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 18. | Arulmigu Subramania Swami Tirukkoil, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District.                     |
| 19. | Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Tirukkoil, Oppiliappan koil, Thanjavur District                    |
| 20. | Arulmigu Naganatha Swami Tirukkoil, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District                        |
| 21. | Arulmigu Magudeswara Swamy Veerananarayana Perumal Tirukkoil, Kodumudi, Erode District        |
| 22. | Arulmigu Vinayagar Tirukkoil, Eachanari, Coimbatore District                                  |
| 23. | Arulmigu Patteeswara Swami Tirukkoil, Perur, Coimbatore District                              |
| 24. | Arulmigu Masaniamman Tirukkoil, Anaimalai, Coimbatore District                                |
| 25. | Arulmigu Koppudaiyanayagi Amman Tirukkoil, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District                     |
| 26. | Arulmigu Subramani Swami Tirukkoil, Sivanmalai, Erode District                                |
| 27. | Arulmigu Adaikalam Kaatha Ayyanar & Badrakaliamman Tirukkoil, Madapuram, Sivagangai District. |
| 28. | Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Kanthimathi Amman Tirukkoil, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli District          |
| 29. | Arulmigu Muthukumara Swami Devasthanam, Chennai, Chennai District                             |
| 30  | Arulmigu Muthumariamman Tirukkoil, Thayamangalam, Sivagangai District.                        |

| <b>Home For Mentally Disordered</b> |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1.                                  | Arulmigu Prasanna Venkatasasa Perumal Tirukkoil, Gunaseelam, Tiruchirapalli District. |
| <b>Old Age Home</b>                 |   |
| 1.                                  | Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul District                        |
| 2.                                  | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tirupparakundram, Madurai District                   |
| <b>Siddha Hospitals</b>             |   |
| 1.                                  | Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Tirukkoil, Vadapalani, Chennai District.                  |
| 2.                                  | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Marudamalai, Coimbatore District.                 |
| 3.                                  | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District.                   |
| 4.                                  | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tiruparankundram, Madurai District.               |
| 5.                                  | Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District.                |
| 6.                                  | Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Tirukkoil, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.               |
| <b>Allopathy Hospitals</b>          |   |
| 1.                                  | Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindugul District.                    |
| 2.                                  | Arulmigu Karpagavinayagar Tirukkoil, Pillaiyarpatti, Sivagangai District.             |

## **Basic amenities for Schools and Colleges**

107. A corpus fund of Rs. 5 Crore each transferred from the affluent temples has been created for providing basic amenities for Schools and Colleges functioning under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The interest accrued from the corpus fund is used as financial grant for providing facilities such as buildings, laboratories, libraries, computers, drinking water and toilet facilities in the Schools and Colleges run by the temples.

108. After **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** assumed charge for upgrading the basic facilities of schools and colleges Rs.23.28 crore was allocated for 140 works. During 2013-2014, Rs. 2.25 crore was allocated for 45 works from the corpus fund for affluent temples to Educational Institutions.

## **Goshalas**

109. Integrated Goshalas were formed in 4 places viz., Palani, Tiruchendur, Srirangam and Rameswaram to maintain cattle offered as Kanikkai (offering).

110. Surplus Cattle received by the temples as donation are given free to the Women Self Help Groups and to Archakas and Poosaris working in the temples as per G.O.218 dated 6.9.2013. Special efforts are being taken to maintain the Goshalas of the temples.

## **Temples and Tamil**

111. Alwars, Nayanmars and Holy Sages in reverence eulogized the deities in Tamil wherever they went. The devotional songs of such savants such as Thevaram, Thiruvvasagam, Thirumanthiram, Thiruppugazh, Nalayira Divya Prabandam have contributed significantly to make the Tamil language to flourish. To perform poojas in Tamil Potri books (Archana books) have been published.

## **Tamil New Year Day**

112. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** by amendment of an enactment restored the customary practice followed by the Tamil people years together recognizing the first day of Chithirai month as the Tamil New Year day on 13.4.2012. This was celebrated by Tamils spread throughout the world.

113. Special Poojas, special Annadhanam, religious discourses and cultural programmes were conducted in all the temples on 14.4.2013 and 14.4.2014. The temples were illuminated and decorated with Plantain tree and Mango leaves. Reading of Panchangam (traditional Tamil almanac) was also done on that day. Numerous devotees celebrated this day by visiting the temple on this auspicious day.



## **Paavai Vizha**

114. Annually during the Tamil month of Margazhi conduct of recitation competition in Thirupavai and Thiruvempavai is in vogue at temples. From the last year on the orders of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** action has been taken to conduct the competition in the district level apart from the competitions held usually in individual temples. Due to this action, 5690 students participated in 32 districts and prizes were distributed for 912 students. The festival was conducted in a grand manner.

## **Festivals of Saints and Savants**

### **Sekkizhar Vizha**

115. **Sekkizhar Vizha** is celebrated as a Government function every year at his birth place, Kundrathur near Chennai by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple celebrates "Panniru Thirumurai Vizha"

and "Sekkizhar Vizha" for 12 days every year during the month of August. Every year, for the festival conducted in Kundrathur financial assistance is given from the interest accrued from the corpus fund created for this purpose.

### **Tirugnana Sambandar Isai vizha**

116. **Tirugnana Sambandar Isai Vizha** is celebrated every year at Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram, to honour Saint Thirugnana Sambhandar, one of the religious savants. The expenses for the festival are met out from the Commissioner's Common Good Fund.

### **Avvaiyar vizha**

117. A temple for the Tamil Poetess and Savant Avvaiyar is situated at Thulasiyapattinam Village, Vedaranyam, Nagapattinam District in the temple premises of Arulmigu Viswanathaswamy Temple. **Avvayar Vizha** is celebrated every year in the month of Panguni on "Sathayam" Star day. Every year for the

festival conducted in Thulasiyapattinam financial assistance is given from the interest accrued from the corpus fund created for this purpose.

### **Thayumanavar vizha**

118. Every year a festival of Thayumanavar Adigal, is celebrated at Arulmigu Thayumanavasamy Temple at Malaikottai, Tiruchirappalli.

### **Thiruvalluvar vizha**

119. **Thiruvalluvar vizha** is celebrated in Mylapore, Arulmigu Thiruvalluvar Temple on Thiruvalluvar Day every year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Tamil month "Thai" believed to be the birthday of the Divine Poet Thiruvalluvar. On this occasion oratorical, recital and essay competitions are conducted among the pupils and prizes are distributed. Further discourses and debates are also conducted.

### **Arunagirinadhar Vizha**

120. **“Arulalar Arunagirinadhar Mukthipperu Vizha”** is celebrated in Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai to honour Saint Arunagirinadhar, on “Kettai” star in the month of Avani every year. He is believed to have attained salvation that day.

### **Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha**

121. **“Kochenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha”** is celebrated at Arulmigu Jambukeswarar and Akilandeswari Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli every year on “Sathayam” star in the month of Masi, the birthday of Kochenkatchozha, one among the 63 Nayanmars.

### **Alwargal Vizha**

122. **‘Alwargal Vizha’** for 12 Alwars is celebrated in Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Trichy District every year.

## **Thalavaralaru and Thalapuram**

123. Thalavaralaru (History of temples) and Thalapuram (legends of temples) of ancient temples are published enabling the public to know the heritage, history, importance, puranas, architecture, inscriptions and importance of worship of the temples concerned. For other temples pamphlets are printed and published for enlightening the people on the importance of their worship. Steps were taken to re-publish and re-write Thalavaralaru and Thalapuram books.

## **Pilgrim Guide**

124. Earlier Pilgrim guides along with essential details were regularly published about various temples located in and around the towns of Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Trichy, Pudukottai, Karur, Perambalur, Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Coimbatore, Nilgris, Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Thirunelveli,

Kanyakumari, Tuticorin, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram. This activity was abandoned in the interim period. Now, steps have been taken to revive the above work. These books serve as important guides to devotees and tourists. Therefore, they are being republished and new pilgrim guide books released in several districts.

### **Thirukoil Monthly Magazine**

125. A monthly magazine namely Thirukoil is being published since 1958 by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Now, this magazine is elegantly published with noteworthy articles by eminent writers. Special edition is being published for every Tamil New Year's Day from 2013.

### **Publishing Agama Books and Other Books in Tamil**

126. In order to facilitate everyone to understand the Agama Shastra books, which are

in Sanskrit, they are translated in Tamil and published. In the first phase, the books "Uthara Kamika Agamam", "Alaya Nirmana Bhimbalakshana Silpa Nool" and "Kumara Thantram" have been translated in Tamil and published. Further, the Tamil books like "Indhu Matha Inaippu Vilakkam" and "Saivamum Vainavamum" are being reprinted and published. Steps will be taken for reprinting such books and publish new books as per need.

### **Chartered Engineers**

127. In order to avoid delay in the preparation of estimates for renovation/restoration works of temples, retired engineers of the Public Works Department and Highways Department are being approved as panel engineers. The approved panel engineers prepare drawings and estimates necessary for the renovation/restoration of temples.

## **Sthapathis**

128. To ensure that the temple renovation/restorations are carried out in accordance with the standards prescribed in Agama and Shilpa Shastra, persons practicing this art, learnt traditionally from their ancestors and those possessing a degree or a diploma in sculptural arts have been approved as Sthapathis.

## **Refresher Training Course**

129. For the Archakas, Bhattachariars and Oduvars to do their work efficiently, a Refresher Course Scheme was started in the year 1991. Till 2002, 488 persons have undergone training under the scheme. This Scheme was abandoned in the previous Government period. The six week refresher course training has been revived and 1011 employees were benefitted during the year 2011-2012. During the year 2012-2013, the six week refresher course training was



started in November and concluded and 1459 employees were benefited. During the year 2013-2014, the six week refresher course was started in January and training was given and 1974 employees were beneficiaries. Every year this training course will be conducted.

### **Training on Human values**

130. It is proposed to train all employees including Archakas to serve the devotees respecting their religious sentiments. Accordingly in the past 3 years, training on human values was given to 7439 employees at 50 centres. During the year 2013-2014, training on human values was given to 4080 employees at 32 centres. This training will be continued every year.

### **Appointment of Musicians**

131. It is customary to play auspicious music in temples during festivals. Considering the decline in such service for want of sufficient fund in ancient temples which are praised by

Alwars and Nayanmars in their Hymns, a corpus fund of Rs. 1 crore has been deposited for enabling payment of Musicians recruited for playing Nadaswaram, Thavil and Taalam instruments at a monthly salary of Rs. 1,500/, Rs. 1,000/- and Rs. 750/- respectively.

### **Welfare Schemes for the Temple Employees**

132. Different categories of Employees are working in temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The welfare schemes available for temple employees are listed below:

| <b>Welfare Schemes</b> |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1.                     | Employees Provident Fund Scheme.  |
| 2.                     | Departmental Pension scheme.  |
| 3.                     | Family Benefit Fund scheme.   |
| 4.                     | Special Provident Fund and Gratuity scheme.   |
| 5.                     | Chief Ministers New Medical Insurance scheme  |
| 6.                     | Temple Employees Welfare Fund scheme.   |
| 7.                     | Pension Scheme for Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanar, Arayars, Divya Prabandam reciters and Musicians. |

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 8.  | Advance for Marriage, Festival and for purchase of Vehicle.                      |
| 9.  | Appointment on compassionate grounds.  |
| 10. | Kudamuzhukku incentive.  |
| 11. | Additional incentive for annual festivals  |
| 12. | Pongal Ex-gratia payment   |
| 13. | Financial assistance for the Education for the Children of the Temple Employees. |
| 14. | Providing Uniforms and Identity cards for the Temple Employees.                  |
| 15. | Computer training for Temple Employees.  |

### **Family Benefit Fund**

133. This Scheme was introduced to help the heirs of the temple employees dying in harness. A corpus fund of Rs. 15 crore has been created for the implementation of this scheme. In this scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh is granted for the heirs of the deceased. During 2011-2013, a sum of Rs. 1.94 crore has been disbursed to 197 legal heirs. During 2013-2014, Rs.91 lakh was given for 93 legal heirs of temple employees.

## **Special Provident Fund and Gratuity Scheme**

134. This Scheme was introduced for the welfare of the employees of temples whose annual income is Rs. 1 lakh and above. A corpus fund of Rs. 50 lakhs has been created for this Scheme from out of the surplus fund of the affluent temples. An amount of Rs. 5000/- is disbursed as gratuity under this Scheme along with the total subscription paid by the retiring employee during his service. After the Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu Puratchi Thalavi Amma** took charge, a sum of Rs. 13.15 lakh has been disbursed to 283 retired employees from the corpus fund. In the year 2013-2014 Rs.7.74 lakh has been given to 166 retired employees.

## **Medical Insurance Scheme**

135. Last year, the Medical Insurance Scheme under the **Chief Minister's New Health Insurance Scheme** was extended to

employees working in the temples under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department and drawing an annual income more than Rs.72,000/- (scale of pay salary) by our **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.** 3412 employees and their families benefited under the scheme.

This year our **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** extended the Chief Minister's New Health Insurance Scheme to the temple employees drawing an annual income less than Rs.72000/- in 2012-13. 10391 employees and their families benefited under the scheme.

### **Temple Employees Welfare Fund Scheme**

136. This scheme has been created for the employees of temples where the annual income is less than Rs. 1,00,000/- for employees with pay less than Rs.750/- p.m. A corpus fund of

Rs.5 Crore from the surplus fund of temples has been created. The interest accrued from this corpus fund is being utilized for the disbursement of the arrears of salary to employees every year. After the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** took office, totally 3488 employees of 2777 temples were given Rs.1.56 crore. During the year 2013-2014, 681 employees in 557 temples have been disbursed a sum of Rs. 31.02 lakh as arrears of salary.

#### **Appointment on Compassionate Grounds**

137. Under the scheme jobs on compassionate grounds are provided to the legal heirs of temple employees dying in harness. After the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** took office, 78 legal heirs out of 110 deceased employees who died in harness were given appointments on Compassionate Ground.

During 2013-2014, 36 legal heirs were given employment on Compassionate Ground.

### **Pension Scheme**

#### **A. Pension for Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham reciters and Musicians.**

138. Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham reciters and Musicians who have served for 20 years in temples and attained 60 years of age were paid a monthly pension of Rs. 750/- from the Government funds through this Department.

139. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ordered to enhance the pension from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1000/- per month annually benefitting 420 employees. The list of beneficiaries of this scheme is as follows:

| S. No | Categories of Artistes/ pensioners | Number approved by Government | Total number of beneficiaries |
|-------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.    | Oduvars                            | 125                           | 36                            |
| 2.    | Vedam, Prabandham and Arayars      | 59                            | 9                             |
| 3.    | Musicians                          | 125                           | 51                            |
| 4.    | Archakas (Saivam and Vainavam)     | 691                           | 324                           |
|       | Total                              | 1000                          | 420                           |

### **B) Village Poosaris Pension Scheme**

140. The Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has enhanced the monthly pension of retired village temple poosaris who have served for more than 20 years in village temples which are not directly under the control of this Department and attained 60 years of age from Rs. 750/- per month to Rs.1000/- on 22.11.2013. Under this Scheme, 2923 Village Poosaris are beneficiaries.



## **C) Pension Scheme For Other Employees Serving in Temples**

141. There are two types of Pension Schemes implemented since March 2006, for the temple employees.

### **i. Employees Provident Fund Scheme**

142. This scheme is applicable to all employees working in temples. As per this Scheme, employees who have more than 10 years of service, subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, from 1-3-2006 will receive benefits like pension and family pension under this scheme.

### **ii. Departmental Pension Scheme**

143. For the employees who have less than 10 years of service on the date of implementation of the Scheme (1.3.2006) and all employees working in the temples which are not affluent enough to subscribe to the

Employees Provident Fund Scheme, a Departmental Pension Scheme has been implemented in 2006.

144. For disbursing pension under the Departmental Pension Scheme, a corpus fund of Rs. 50 crore was created from the surplus funds of affluent temples and from the interest accrued on this corpus fund. The monthly pension of Rs.800/- given to retired temple employees under the departmental pension scheme was raised to Rs.1000/- in 2013-2014.

145. During 2013-2014, 454 retired employees were sanctioned with pension and so far 3787 employees have been benefited under this scheme.

146. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, Departmental Pension Scheme benefits have been extended to those employees who retired prior to 1996, benefiting 100 more retired employees.

## **Educational Aids for the Children of Temple Employees**

147. Financial assistance of 25% of the first year tuition fees is given to the son or daughter of the temple employee studying professional courses in a Government aided Educational Institution.

## **Village temple Poosarigal Welfare Board**

148. For Poosaris performing poojas in the village temples which are not under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a separate Board namely "The Village Temple Poosarigal Welfare Board" has been constituted, through which the following benefits are provided.

| <b>Assistance provided under the welfare scheme</b> |   | <b>Amount<br/>Rs.</b> |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1.  | For the purchase of spectacles                                    | 500/-                 |
| 2.  | For the Maternity/abortion expenses of poosari's wife or daughter | 6000/-                |

|    |  |                            |
|----|--|----------------------------|
| 3. | For the Higher Education of the Children of a poosari. | from 1000/<br>to<br>6000/- |
| 4. | For Poosari's Marriage                                 | 3000/-                     |
| 5. | For the marriage of poosari's son                      | 3000/-                     |
| 6. | For the marriage of poosari's daughter                 | 5000/-                     |
| 7. | For performing the last rites of any deceased member   | 2000/-                     |
| 8. | For the legal heir of the deceased member              | 15,000/-                   |

Welfare assistance was distributed to 606 persons valued at Rs.20 lakhs in 2013-2014.

**Conclusion:**

“தூபியும் நட்டு மிக்க கதையும்நல் வினையும் செய்து  
கூவலும் அமைத்து மாடு கோயிலும்சூழ் மதிலும் போக்கி  
வாவியும் தொட்டு மற்றும் வேண்டுவது வகுத்து”

சேக்கிழார்

In keeping with the sentiments expressed by Sekkizhar Peruman due to the good governance of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** the following development initiatives have been taken.

- ❖ Annadhanam in 518 temples with social consciousness. Extension to 100 more temples shortly.
- ❖ Day long Annadhanam in Srirangam and Palani temples.
- ❖ Rejuvenation camp to nurture the mental and physical health of the temple elephants.
- ❖ Completion of Restoration/Renovation and consecration ceremonies in 5391 temples ranging from archaeological and heritage valued temples to village temples.
- ❖ Yatri Nivas building constructed at Srirangam for Rs.47.09 crore.
- ❖ Fixture of burglar alarms in temples, full grant for temples with paucity of funds.
- ❖ Chief Minister's Extended Medical Insurance Scheme extended to temple employees and their families not only drawing more than Rs.72,000/- per annum

but also those drawing less than Rs.72,000/- per annum.

- ❖ Enhancement of monthly pension to Rs.1000/- for poosaris of village temples not under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.
- ❖ Enhancement of monthly pension to Rs.1000/- for temple employees drawing pension under the departmental pension scheme.
- ❖ Appointment of Archaeological Expert Advisor and committee with eminent members to preserve and conserve the temples of archaeological and historical value by performing works with expert guidance.
- ❖ Appointment of Advisory Committee to restore and conserve heritage paintings without disturbing the heritage value.

- ❖ Enhancement of annual Government Grant from Rs.1 Crore to Rs.3 Crore granted for administration of Kanyakumari District temples and educational institutions.
- ❖ Enhancement of annual Government Grant from Rs.3 crore to Rs.6 crore for renovation/restoration of temples.
- ❖ Amendment to the provisions of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act prescribing qualification for appointment as trustee to the religious institutions, should have faith in God.

சமய நெறியை உணர்ந்து நாளும் திருப்பணியால் நல்லிசை பெற்ற மாண்புமிகு அம்மா அவர்களின் தொலைநோக்குப் பார்வையில்

அன்பர் பணி செய்ய எனை ஆளாக்கிவிட்டு விட்டால்  
இன்பநிலை தானே வந்து எய்தும் பராபரமே

**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu  
Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** acts as a  
Thayumanavar (**Mother**) of Hindu Religious

Institutions in the religious land of Tamil Nadu and not only for Tamil Nadu but also for all the Tamil people of the world and all the people of the world. **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** is a guide, who facilitates their journey on their spiritual path.

The staff and Officers of the temples and the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department follow the guidance of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** to make her vision a reality.

**P. CHENDUR PANDIAN,**

Minister for Hindu  
Religious and Charitable  
Endowments