3.3 LAND REFORMS AND COMPUTERISATION OF LAND RECORDS

A. Land Reforms

Land Reforms were envisaged as an important instrument of change directed at removing institutional and motivational obstacles standing in the way of modernisation of agriculture and creation of more egalitarian social structure. After independence, land reforms were made an important and integral part of the rural development programmes in India.

The major objectives of land reforms in India are as follows:

1. Restructuring of agrarian relations to achieve egalitarian social structure;
2. Elimination of exploitation in land relations;
3. Actualisation of the goal of “land to the tiller”;
4. Improvement of socio-economic conditions of the rural poor by widening their land base;
5. Increasing, agricultural production and productivity;
6. Facilitating land base development of rural poor; and
7. Infusion of a greater measure of equality in local institutions.

For the fulfilment of these objectives, the major steps adopted under the land reforms programme in the country are as follows:

1. Abolition of intermediaries
2. Regulation of landlord-tenant relationship by fixing fair rents, conferring security of tenure on tenants subject to the landlord’s right to resume limited area for personal cultivation, bringing tenants into direct relationship with the State in respect of areas which the landlord is not entitled to resume and gradual conferment of ownership rights on the tenants
3. Redistribution of land by placing ceiling on future acquisition and exiting holdings and acquiring surplus areas above the ceilings, resettlement of landless agricultural workers and increasing the size of uneconomic holdings
4. Consolidation of scattered holdings into compact blocks and prevention of fragmentation and sub-division of holdings below an economic size
5. Updating and computerisation of land records - The history of post-independence India broadly shows three phases. Legislation to abolish intermediaries marked 1948-54. Then starting in 1953, tenancy reform measures were implemented in many States. Finally Legislation for imposing ceilings on holdings began in 1956.

Agricultural Land Ceiling

The Land Ceiling Act, in its structure and process, follows the common pattern. The first enactment in Tamil Nadu on land ceiling was the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1961, (called the Principal Act) which received the assent of the President on the 15th April 1962 and was published in the official gazette on the 2nd May 1962. The object was equitable distribution of land to the landless by fixing the ceiling on the holdings of agricultural land so as to render the surplus available for distribution to the landless poor.

The ceiling limit for a family consisting of five members was fixed as 30 standard acres. For every additional member of the family consisting of more than five members,
an additional extent of five standard acres was allowed in addition to the ceiling area of 30 standard acres, subject to the overall ceiling of 60 standard acres. Any female member of a family having lands in her own name on the date of commencement of the Act is entitled to hold stridhana property up to a ceiling of 10 standard acres. Planters were allowed excess land subject to the maximum of 20% of contiguous area of existing plantation after getting permission from the Land board under section 31 of the Act.

The Act was challenged by writ petitions filed in the Supreme Court in 1963 (A.P. Krishnaswamy Naidu and others Vs. State of Madras 1964 – 7 S.C.R. 82) on the ground that its provisions violated Articles 14, 19 & 31 (2) of the Constitution. Not only was the Tamil Nadu Land Ceiling Act struck down as unconstitutional, similar attacks were made to several Acts of other States imposing ceiling on the holdings of the land and attempting to effect similar agrarian reforms. To shield these Acts against such attacks, Parliament passed the Constitution Seventeenth Amendment Act on the 20th June 1964. The Statement of objects and reasons for the Act shows that in as much as “several State Acts relating to Land Reforms were struck down on the ground that the provisions of those Acts were violative of Articles 14, 19 and 31 of the Constitution and that the protection of the Article 31-A was not available to them”, it was “proposed to amend the definition of “estate” in Article 31-A of the Constitution by including therein lands held under ryotwari settlement as also other lands in respect of which provisions are normally made in Land Reforms Enactments” and it was also “proposed to amend the Ninth Schedule by including certain State enactments relating to Land Reforms in order to remove any uncertainty or doubt that may arise in regard to the invalidity”. Accordingly, Parliament passed the Seventeenth Amendment Act, 1964, effecting change not only in Article 31-A of the Constitution by adding a proviso after the existing proviso in clause (1) but also substituting a new sub clause (a) in (2) and including in the Ninth Schedule not less than forty four Acts of different States, of which one item was the Act struck down by the Supreme Court.

The 17th Amendment Act was itself challenged in the case of Sajjan Singh V. State of Rajasthan (1965-1 S.C.R.933). A number of Writ Petitions were filed in the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution in the year 1966, Golaknath V. Punjab (1967-2 S.C.R.762) challenging not only the validity of the Constitution Seventeenth Amendment Act of 1964 but also Constitution Fourth Amendment Act 1955 and Constitution First Amendment Act 1951 in so far as they affected the petitioner’s fundamental rights. Five learned Judges of the Supreme Court held all the amendments to be valid while four other concurred in the judgement delivered by Subba Rao, C.J., holding that although the above amendment Acts abridged the scope of the fundamental rights thus violating Article 15 of the Constitution, they could not be struck down because of the earlier decision of the Supreme Court to the contrary. One learned Judge took the view that the fundamental rights were outside the amendatory process if the amendments sought to abridge or take away any of those rights but the First, Fourth and Seventh Amendments being part of the Constitution, by acquiescence for a long time could not be challenged and they contained authority for the 17th Amendment. The judgement in Golaknath’s case were rendered on 27th February, 1967.

Ceiling laws were enacted and enforced actually in two phases, the earlier phase covering the period from 1960 to 1972 before the National Guide Lines were laid down and the latter since 1972 after the adoption of the National Guide Lines. There were two units of application, namely, the individual land holder and the family. The classes of land, which were exempted from the operation of ceiling laws varied widely in the States.
The legislative measures had loop-holes which were taken advantage of by the bigger landed interests to circumvent the laws. In anticipation of the ceilings, the big land holders partitioned their holdings and fictitiously transferred them in pieces to other individuals through benami transfers on a very large scale.

The entire ceiling legislation was examined by the Central Land Reforms Committee, which made certain recommendations on the basis of which the Chief Ministers in their Conference held in July, 1972, laid down the 'National Guide Lines' that were to govern the ceiling legislation in future. The post 1972 ceiling legislation has been rationalised and put more or less on a uniform basis through out the country based on the National Guide Lines.

Meanwhile, by the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Reduction of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1970, the ceiling for a family of not more than 5 members was reduced to 15 standard acres. The exemption granted under the Principal Act for lands grown with sugarcane and grazing lands was withdrawn by Act 41/71 with effect from 15.1.1972 and the overall ceiling limit of 60 standard acres was reduced to 40 standard acres by Act 20/72 and then to 30 standard acres by Act 30/72. Originally the trusts were exempt but later by Act 37/72, a ceiling limit was fixed according to the character of the trust, and the trusts were prohibited from acquiring agricultural lands after 1.3.1972. However, if any trust acquired land after 1.3.1972 for educational or hospital purposes, such trust may apply to Government for grant of permission under Section 37-B of the Act. Act 20/72 provided for grant of permission by Government under Section 37-A for industrial and commercial undertakings to hold lands in excess.

For the surplus lands taken over by Government, amount is payable which earlier was fixed on the basis of multiples of the net annual income which was the amount of fair rent less the land revenue. The multiples which ranged from 12 to 9 times for slabs of Rs.5,000 of the net annual income were brought down by Act 39/72 so as to range from 12 to 2 times. The amount is payable in 10 annual instalments.

The Constitution 24th Amendment Act which came into force on November 5, 1971 amended Article 368. The Constitution 24th Amendment Act enacted that Parliament may in exercise of its constituent power amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 368, and that nothing in Article 13 shall apply to any amendment under Article 368.

Following the majority decision in Bank Nationalisation case (R.C. Cooper V. Union of India, (1970) 3 SCR 530 : (1970) 1 SCC 248), that 'compensation' meant "the equivalent in terms of money of the property compulsorily acquired" according to 'relevant principles' which principles must be appropriate to the determination of compensation for the particular class of property acquired, the Constitution 25th Amendment Act which came into force on April 20, 1972 amended Article 31 (2) and Article 31 (2-A) of the Constitution. The effect of these two amendments was two-fold. First, no property shall be compulsorily acquired or requisitioned save for a public purpose and save by authority of law which provides for an amount which may be fixed by law or which may be determined in accordance with such principles and given in such manner as may be specified in such law. The word 'amount' was substituted for 'compensation' in the sub-article by the 25th Amendment. Secondly, nothing in Article 19 (1) (f) shall affect any law or is referred to in Article 31 (2). The second part of the Constitution 25th Amendment Act was introduction of Article 31-C which enacts that
notwithstanding anything contained in Article 13 no law giving effect to the policy of the State towards securing principles prescribed in clauses (b) and (c) of Article 39 shall be deemed to be void on the ground that it takes away or abridges any of the rights conferred by Articles 14, 19 and 31; and no law containing a declaration that it is for giving effect to such a policy can be called in question in any court on the ground that it does not give effect to such policy.

The lands notified as surplus on or after 27th October 1978 are governed for the purpose of payment of amount for the surplus lands by the revised schedule III to the Land Ceiling Act as amended by Act II of 1979, according to which all surplus lands acquired from a person by the Government are treated as one unit and the annual value taken as 5 times the land revenue for waste and forest lands and 20 times the land revenue or 20 times of (land revenue + Rs.5 or Rs.9 per acre) depending on the type of land (wet, dry, manavari, irrigated etc.) such that the annual value so determined should not exceed Rs.3500 per acre.

The disposal of surplus lands acquired by the Government is governed by the Disposal of Surplus Land Rules 1965. An order of priority is laid down for assignment under the Rules.

Earlier, a Centrally Sponsored Programme for providing financial assistance to the assignees of ceiling surplus lands for the land development and for the purchase of inputs was implemented up to the financial year, 1999-2000. Subsequently, the above scheme was discontinued with effect from 2000-2001.

The area declared as surplus till 31st April 2004 is 2,04,495 acres. The area covered by Court proceedings is 8,663 acres; thus the net area available for distribution was 1,95,832 acres. The area for which distribution has been completed till 31st March 2004 is 1,95,130 acres.

**Tenancy Reform**

The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Projection Act, 1955, affords protection to tenants from unjust eviction. According to the Act, no cultivating tenant shall be evicted from his holding by or at the instance of the landlord, except as otherwise provided.

The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956, provides that every cultivating tenant shall be bound to pay the land owner and every land owner shall be entitled to collect from the cultivating tenant fair rent payable under the Act. The fair rent shall be:

- **a)** in the case of wet land, 40% of the normal gross produce or its value in money;
- **b)** in the case of wet land, where the irrigation is supplemented by lifting water, 35% of the normal gross produce or its value in money;
- **c)** in case of any other class of land, 33 1/3% of the normal gross produce or its value in money.

The fair rent has been reduced to 25% of the normal gross produce or its value in money by the Amending Act of 1980.

The interest of tenants of Trust lands are regulated by the Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation of Administration of Agricultural Lands), Act, 1961, according to which no public trust shall personally cultivate land in excess of 20 standard acres and no cultivating tenant under any public trust shall be evicted from his holding or any part thereof by or at the instance of the public trust except for arrears of rent, negligence
which is destructive or injurious to the land, etc. The fair rent payable is the same as under the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenant (Payment of Fair Rent) Act, 1956.

There is no provision to confer ownership on the tenants as yet. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands (Record of Tenancy Rights) Act, 1969, provides for the preparation and maintenance of complete and reliable records of tenancy rights which would serve as a documentation on tenancy and would go a long way in ending the evils associated with oral leases.

Registered under Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands (Record of Tenancy Rights) Act, 10/1969 as on 31st March 2004 from the Inception of the Act is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No.of persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Castes</td>
<td>1,90,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Tribes</td>
<td>881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3,74,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,65,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent in involved</td>
<td>15,65,895 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consolidation of Holdings

While land redistribution reform is applied to agrarian structure which are badly organised with respect to ownership and size of land property, consolidation is concerned with farmers which are poorly organised in location and shape with i.e. to say, poor spatial organisation of farming. Where the farms and farms are badly located with respect to their fields, where the fields are inconveniently located with respect to one another (i.e. when the farm is fragmented), or where the fields are in an awkward shape for current farming techniques (e.g. in narrow strip or wedge-shaped plots), both the problems and the solutions are basically spatial.

The division of farm property into undersized units too small for rational exploitation, and the excessive dispersion of the parcels forming parts of a single farm are two distinct conditions. Rather confusingly, consolidation is the term applied to the remedy for both. Undersized farms constitute an issue of wider ranging implications, being linked often to the problems and objectives of conventional land redistribution, and generally reflecting the condition of over population. Fragmentation of individual farms is a rather separate problem (though the two often co-exist) which can be solved, at least on the theoretical plane, by simple spatial reorganisation of farm holdings by relocating the boundaries.

The phenomenon of fragmentation of farm holdings which tends to result from continual splitting up of holdings upon inheritance or when land is freely traded as gifts on dowries, is seen as a great obstacle to farm efficiency. Apart from the obstacles to mechanisation, much time is wasted by the farmer in travelling to and from scattered plots.

The greatest obstacle to consolidation is tradition and the unwillingness of farmers to participate, even where there would appear to be manifest advantages for all concerned. It is often very difficult to persuade a peasant farmer to exchange a plot of
land which he has farmed for years or which has been in the family for generations, for a parcel of someone else’s land which lies adjacent to his own.

Even once consolidated, there may be nothing to stop consolidated holdings from undergoing fragmentation a new. Consolidation of holdings was not taken up in Tamil Nadu.

B. Updation and computerisation of Land Records

I. Computerisation of Land Records – The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Computerisation of Land Records was started in 1988-89 with 100% financial assistance as a pilot project in eight districts in the country. During Eighth Five Year Plan, the scheme was approved as a separate Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Computerisation of Land Records. The scheme covers 582 districts of the country leaving only these districts, where there are no land records.

Computerization of Land Records (CLR) programme is being implemented in Tamil Nadu with 100% financial assistance from Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

- ‘A’ register and Chitta have been computerized in 201 taluks.
- 201 taluks out of 206 taluks in the State have come on line.
- Ban on issue of manual extract of land records has been notified in the State Gazette and computerized land records are only valid in the State.
- About 145 lakh people have availed this facility and obtained computerized extracts of land records.

Tamil Nilam - For effective land administration, planning and empowering the people with the right to information about their land details, a computerized system of land records is very crucial. Detailed and updated information in an efficient retrieval mode is required for this purpose. The data-base thus created will help in all land related activities namely land tenancy, land ceiling, consolidation of land holdings and to provide horizontal and vertical linkages with other departments and financial institutions etc.

Modernizing data collection, storage, retrieval and processing facilities in respect of land related data traditionally collected by land revenue administration, so as to improve accuracy, made information readily available to users at nominal cost and enable better use of collected data for meaningful analysis and decision-making. This scheme of Computerization of land records is the first successful implementation of e-governance at grass root level where people are going to be directly benefited and this digital data will be very useful planning and execution of Government of India programmes.

Accordingly a pilot project was taken up in 1991-1992 in Salem district of Tamil Nadu. With the experience gained, the programme was extended to the remaining districts in a phased manner in the years 1994-1998.

After the extended period of data entry, validation and correction, the entire State was ready to go on line for the land ownership data in the rural areas. Additionally an extensive programme of training to revenue personnel who would be involved in operation of the computer system was taken up. In the transition period, before going fully on line, it was decided to have both the manual system and computer system to run parallel. After gaining full confidence, the system was switched over to completely on line and manual systems were given up.
It was not enough just to have the system on line, i.e. all changes in the land records being carried out through the computer only. It was also necessary to change the procedures to take care of the change of environment. While the training imparted to the operative persons has taken care of this factor by making them familiar with the new system, it was still necessary to give a legal and administrative sanctity to the records now being maintained only in the computer. Accordingly, a notification was issued by the Government making computerized extracts of land ownership document as the only valid document and manual extracts were banned.

The above mentioned steps are in accordance with the guidelines of the Government of India. Although Karnataka with its ‘Bhoomi’ project has also completed the computerization of land records, Tamil Nadu has taken several innovative steps over and above the computerization of land records programme envisaged by the Government of India.

The CLR programme in Tamil Nadu was named as “TAMIL NILAM” (Tamil Nadu Info system on Land Administration and Management) and the following innovative features were included:

(1) (i) For the first time in the country, the citizen interface for the land records was introduced. This was done by providing Touch Screen Computer Kiosks (TSCK) in the taluk offices spread throughout the State.

(ii) Land ownership records for all the villages in the taluks have been made available for display to the public in the kiosks. Apart from providing an easy way of checking up of land ownership details, this has also introduced transparency in the Government records as any person can view ownership data of any land situated within the taluk. This has meant that the chances of fraudulent land transaction have been substantially reduced. There was very favourable response to the initial introduction of this kiosk and it was decided to install them all over the State. Installation is now under progress.

(iii) An element of self-sustainability for maintenance and cost of consumables has been built into the system. A viewer ship charge of Rs.2/- for five minutes and a charge of Rs.20/- for getting an extract are being levied.

2. (i) Tamil Nadu has been of the pioneer state in the country in computerizing the Land Records. Thus all lands sales are now being recorded in the computers available in the Sub Registrars’ Office. This has made the task of getting Encumbrance Certificate much easier for the citizens.

(ii) There are two aspects to the land transactions, namely, getting the document registered while the purchase is made, and secondly, getting the changes done in the land records data base in the taluk offices.

The first activity is carried out in the Sub-Registrars’ Office and the second in the taluk offices. These offices have been operating in isolation leading to delays and harassment to citizens whenever a land related transaction is made. This was the situation by and large in Tamil Nadu and in other States, even after computerization of both the offices had been done.

(iii) Accordingly it was decided to link up the two databases in Tamil Nadu in taluk office wherever the Sub Registrar Office is also located near by. This process has already been started and implementation is going on satisfactorily. In these areas, whenever a land sale is registered, the land records database in the taluk office is also
changed the very next day. The magnitude of the importance can be gauged from the
fact that before linking up of the two offices, a separate application would have to be
made and the entire process would take several months. Thus, there has been a
dramatic improvement and reduction of harassment to the citizens.

3. (i) Apart from the land holding data, sometimes, village maps are required by the
public for their use. These maps have been traditionally stored in paper rolls in
haphazard fashion. Retrieval and sale of maps on demand used to take several days
and led to substantial harassment to citizen. A project to scan the village maps is under
progress. Once the maps have scanned and stored in the computer, retrieval and taking
up a printout for sale is easier and faster. Substantial storage space is also released for
other use. A few districts have already been completed and sales through the computer
have been started.

Tasks Ahead

i. **Digitization of land holding data:** So far only the land ownership data in the form
of alphanumeric data has been computerized. If a landholder requires a sketch of his
holding, it has to be manually drawn and given. To complete the process of
computerization and to achieve the goals envisaged it is necessary to take up
digitization of land holding sketches as well.

ii. **Data warehouse:** With the wealth of the data now available after the
computerization of land records data, it is possible to centrally store data and to extract
information. It is proposed to host a data warehouse of land records in Chennai, which
will yield details of land holdings of land usage by the Government and others.

iii. **Computerisation of cultivation data:** This data is more dynamic than the other
land data now available. Computerization of cultivation data is now in progress and is
expected to be completed shortly.

iv. **Security aspects:** Considering the nature of land data it is necessary to have the
best possible security. While at present security is provided by using password for
access into the database, it is proposed to further strengthen this aspect. For this
purpose it is proposed to take up implementation of digital signatures under a Public
Key Infrastructure (PKI).

Thus it can be seen from the above that Tamil Nadu with its implementation of
Tamil Nilam has gone considerably farther than other States and brought an ambit of
new service not originally envisaged under the Government of India project. It will be the
endeavour to provide the best possible service for the citizen under this project by
covering new areas to give the greatest possible benefit to the citizens of Tamil Nadu.

2. **Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updation of Land Records (SRA & ULR)**

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Strengthening of Revenue Administration and
Updation of Land Records (SRA and ULR) was started in 1987 with finding by the
Central and the State Governments on 50:50 basis. Under the Scheme, financial
assistance is given for purchase of modern survey equipments like Global Positioning
System (GPS), EDM, Total Stations, Theodolites, Work Stations, Aerial Survey, Office
equipments like Photocopiers, Laminating Machines, Binding Machines and basic
facilities to improve the work efficiency of lower staff of the Revenue Departments,
3.3 Land Reforms and Computerisation of Land Records

The objectives of the scheme were as follows:

i) Strengthening of Survey and Settlement Organisations for early completion and preparation of land records in areas where this work is yet to be completed.

ii) Providing facilities for modernisation of survey and settlement operation, printing of survey maps, report / documents, storage, copying and updating of land and crops records using, among other things, latest science and technology inputs. Providing data for land based planning activities by various departments and agencies by development of GIS applications.

iii) Improving accuracy of survey and enabling convergence of various survey data including that of Survey of India.

iv) Strengthening of revenue machinery at village and immediate supervisory levels on a selective basis to make the workload of these functionaries manageable.

v) Imparting pre-service and in-service training to revenue, survey and settlement staff and strengthening of training infrastructure for this purpose

The following were the main activities taken up in Tamil Nadu under the scheme:

(1) Construction of Training Institute in Orathanadu and extension of buildings in Bhavani Sagar Training Institute

(2) Purchase of office equipments such as Xerox Machine, Map storage, furniture for Training Institute etc.

(3) Survey instruments such as Theodalites etc.

In the last 2 to 3 years the emphasis has shifted from the above activities to modernisation of survey techniques. Accordingly, the following programmes have been pursued:

Global Positioning System (GPS) and Total Station

Initially a pilot project was taken up in Chingleput taluk of Kancheepuram district for survey using GPS and total station on an experimental basis for one village. After the village survey was completed the following advantages of using the modern survey techniques were found:

(1) An accurate geo-reference points of the village traverse was possible. Using this in future, it would be possible that all villages are geo referenced to mosaic the village maps to generate taluk maps and larger scale maps accurately

(2) Total station survey gave extremely accurate results

(3) The out-put generated is in the digital format and amenable for further processing by computer

(4) Normally table work consumes for more time than the survey process work itself by using the traditional method. Using new instruments it is possible to reduce the office process time to practically nil, as the out-put is digital and can be loaded directly into the computer. Calculation of area and other parameters are also automatically available

(5) Mosaicing of blocks and incorporating and GIS related details is possible. As a result of this the process of cadastral survey could now be extended to include additional
details normally available in cadastral maps. User departments can give further
information which can be incorporated in GIS format. Thus generation of all digital
 cadastral survey maps using total station opens opportunities of making a full-fledged
GIS possible for the areas surveyed

(6) The available man power can take up large areas simultaneously

Now that the utility of the total station survey has been established, it has been
decided that there should be gradual improvement of these techniques throughout the
State. Accordingly, the Government of Tamil Nadu made a provision of Rs.40.00 lakhs
for this year; the matching grant of the Government of India had already been received.
Henceforth, all new town surveys would be taken up using total station only.

Scanning of Village Maps

Saleable copies of village maps are made available to the public from the Central
Survey Office. As a result of this storing 50 to 100 copies of village maps of more than
17 thousands villages takes considerable place. It is also not possible to retrieve the
village maps easily as and when required. Under this scheme a sum of Rs.40.00 lakhs
was provided to procure hardware for taking up scanning. Accordingly hardware such
as server, scanner, plotter and archive media has been procured. Scanning of village
maps for 12 districts have been completed. After scanning is over the village maps
would be sent to the district for use after retaining one copy. As a result this would
release considerable space. It is also possible to retrieve and print from the computer
very easily. Thus any member of the public on payment can get a copy of village map
within ½ an hour compared to 2 to 3 days time required earlier.

C-Star

The personnel of Survey Department have been trained only in the time tested
conventional method of survey hitherto followed and they have not been fully exposed to
train in new technology and handling modern survey equipment

With the growing importance of, and reliance on, Electronic Measurement Tools,
Computers and GIS based natural resources management, the need for accurate digital
survey is keenly felt more now than even before. Hence, the SLRD has proposed
i) To introduce modern State of the art technologies in land survey in Tamil Nadu
ii) To expose the manpower in the department to modern land survey practices and
technologies and provide training
iii) To establish and appropriate grid system for accurate cadastral survey based on
coordinate system

The Government has recognised the need to impart training in modern
technologies and to upgrade the skills of the survey personnel as an important element
in the process of modernisation of the SLRD. The training infrastructure and facilities
now available with the department are not sufficient to cope up with the modern training
requirements. In view of this, the Government in collaboration with the Anna University,
Chennai has proposed to establish a modern Survey Training Institute at Chennai. A
sum of Rs.25.00 lakhs has been provided for these projects on 50:50 sharing basis.

Financial Outlay

SRA & ULR

A sum of Rs.722.06 lakhs sanctioned (GOI Rs.361.03 lakhs and State
Government Rs.361.03 lakhs) have been utilised for the purpose.
Global positioning System (GPS)

For implementing a pilot project in Kancheepuram district a sum of Rs.120.00 lakhs was sanctioned in 2000-2001. For the year 2003-2004 a sum of Rs.80.00 lakhs was sanctioned for purchase of Total Station for 2 districts by GOI.

Scanning of Village Maps

For the year 2002-2003 a sum of Rs.40.00 lakhs was sanctioned. For the year 2003-2004 a sum of Rs.23.40 lakhs has been sanctioned by GOI.

C-Star

For establishing Centre for Survey Training and Research in collaboration with Anna University, a sum of Rs.250.00 lakhs was sanctioned during 2001-2002.