8.2 SOCIAL WELFARE

Social Welfare programmes are designed essentially to supplement the larger effort for human development. The objective is to improve the quality of life and to cater to the special needs of vulnerable sections like children, women and the handicapped through organised and sustained developmental activities. During the past few decades of planned development, social welfare has acquired greater significance, as evidenced by its widening interface with Government and increasing participation of voluntary agencies. Upto the close of the Fourth Plan, most of the programmes were ameliorative in nature. From the Fifth Plan onwards, emphasis shifted to the promotion of preventive and developmental services. Programmes for promoting women's welfare received fillip. These included socio-economic programmes, which provided employment opportunities to needy women and disabled persons to supplement their family incomes or to bring about their economic rehabilitation, condensed courses/vocational training courses which prepared women for certain recognized examinations thus enabling them to qualify for specific jobs and acquire various skills, and hostels for women, which helped in providing women from far-flung areas with stay and day care facilities for their children.

Social Welfare encompasses a host of measures which would fall within the ambit of the term social security. Traditionally, social security means the protection which society provides for its members, through a series of measures against the economic and social distress that would otherwise be caused by the stoppage or substantial reduction of earnings resulting from sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age and death.

In Tamil Nadu (as in other parts of the country), social security is provided through both promotional and protective measures. While promotional social security includes poverty alleviation programmes, employment generation programmes, the provision of basic needs and the public distribution system, protective social security includes entitlements to those affected by old age, disability, sickness, maternity, employment injury etc., and includes contributory benefits in the form of pensions and retirement benefits to Government employees, provident funds and other benefits for workers in factories and other commercial establishments, pensions for vulnerable groups and marriage and maternity or other social assistance for women (and others). “Tamil Nadu and Kerala have proved that the State has an important role to play in guaranteeing promotional and protective social security to a large section of the unorganized poor” (Mahendra Dev 1994; Mahendra Dev et al 2001).

Welfare of Women and Children

The status of women is reflected through indicators like literacy level, work participation rate, Gender Development Index (GDI) etc. The GDI is a summary measure which has been found to be useful in comparing stages of gender development.

The GDI (2001) for Tamil Nadu is 0.654 as against the all-India value of 0.560 (HDR 2002). This shows that Tamil Nadu’s achievement in gender equality is better than that in the country as a whole.

Gender Development Index values for the districts in Tamil Nadu vary from 0.766 to 0.582. Chennai fares the best and Dharmapuri (and Villupuram) the worst. The other districts which fare well are Kaniyakumari, Thoothukudi, Kancheepuram and Coimbatore.
Sex ratio in Tamil Nadu in 2001 was 987/1000 as against 974/1000 in 1991. This may be compared with the all India ratio of 932/1000. For the entire world the ratio is 990/1000. The juvenile sex ratio in Tamil Nadu is 939 according to 2001 census as compared to 948 in 1991 census.

In regard to female literacy, the rate in Tamil Nadu has increased from 27% in 1971 to 35% in 1981, 51% in 1991 and 64.55% in 2001.

The female work participation rate has increased from 22.95% in 1971 to 32.41% in 1981 and to 34.41% in 1991.

The programmes which have improved their status are classified broadly into economic activities, welfare support, financial assistance etc. These programmes are implemented for the rehabilitation and welfare of widows, destitutes and deserted women by providing either direct assistance for marriage and in kind like supply of sewing machines etc. or indirect assistance in the form of training in vocational courses like computer, typewriting, shorthand and involving women in various co-operative societies for promoting self employment. The other programmes under implementation are creches, balwadies, training-cum-production centres for women, and institutional services for the needy women.

The Institutions in the State for the welfare of women, children, disabled, orphaned, neglected children, old people and juveniles comprise 141 creches, 25 orphanages, 130 co-operative societies, 46 training centres, 6 production centres, 6 service homes, 8 working women's hostels, 11520 Mahalir manrams, 13 old age homes, 264 special schools, 33 special / children homes, 8 observation homes, 6 protective / vigilance homes and 7 night shelters for street and working children.

The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd. was established in 1983 with a focus on socio-economic empowerment strategies. The Corporation is implementing a major programme, viz., Tamil Nadu Women Development Project (Mahalir Thittam) under which 1.62 lakh Self Help Groups have been formed with an enrolment of 27.50 lakh women.

The Social Welfare Board has assumed the role of a catalyst of social change. It has made efforts to extend its programmes to the uncovered areas, by encouraging new voluntary organisations. Mahalir Manrams are functioning to raise social awareness among women and Guidance Bureau function in the districts to help needy women. Family counselling centres have been organised for promoting harmony in the family. The Tamil Nadu Commission for Women was constituted for protecting the rights and safeguarding the welfare of women.

Female Infanticide - Child welfare deals with the disadvantaged groups of children and their special needs are looked after in Social Welfare sector. A significant proportion of female infant deaths in the neonatal period is due to female infanticide (FI). In the last three or four decades, there has been a rapid decline in the juvenile sex ratio (in the age group 0-6) in some districts of the State. The available data show that the total number of female infanticides has gradually reduced from 3004 in 1994 to 2568 in 2000. 8 districts accounted for most of these deaths namely Salem (1218) Dharmapuri (445), Krishnagiri (243), Theni (109), Namakkal (102), Dindigul (71) Madurai (69), and Thirupattur (69). As an intervention by the Government for the prevention of female infanticide, a reception centre was started at Usilampatti which received 50 girl children. A welfare scheme for the girl children has also been launched. Cradles were placed in the hospitals and orphanages set up to prevent female infanticide practice among some communities in Salem District.
Welfare of Disabled

It is estimated that out of 1.2 crores of disabled population in India, 9.4% live in Tamil Nadu which is 10.61 lakhs (1.9% of total State Population) consisting of 2.04 lakh blind, 2.18 lakh deaf and dumb, 6.24 lakh orthopaedically handicapped and 0.16 lakh mentally retarded persons. Despite various health services, a number of disabilities continue to appear due to polio, communicable and congenital diseases, increased industrialization and mechanisation, vehicular traffic leading to locomotor disability, vitamin-A deficiency, cataract and infection, injuries, nutritional deficiency leading to visual loss and ear infection, external injury, and noise pollution contributing to hearing loss. In order to give adequate attention to the welfare of the Disabled, the State Government had established a separate Directorate for Rehabilitation of the Disabled in 1992-93 by bifurcating the Directorate of Social Welfare.

National Policy for Disabled

A comprehensive law, namely, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, has been enacted and enforced in February, 1996. The law deals with both prevention and promotional aspects of the rehabilitation such as education, employment and vocational training, creation of barrier-free environment, provision of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, institutional services and supportive social security measures like unemployment allowance and a grievance redressal machinery both at the Central and State level. An Expert Committee was constituted in 1999 to identify / review the posts in Groups `A', `B', `C' and `D' to be reserved for persons with disabilities in the Ministries / Departments and PSUs.

The Persons with Disabilities Act also aims to give equal opportunities for the disabled and to protect their rights in order to integrate them with the community and to enable them to have full participation in normal life. In Tamil Nadu, the Act is being successfully implemented by appointing a State Commissioner to monitor the implementation of the Act, besides his role as Head of the Department for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

State Policy for Disabled

The State Policy on Persons with Disabilities released in 1994 has focussed on the prevention of disabilities and timely assistance to persons with disabilities to lead a normal life within the family and the community. This comprehensive policy aims at early protection and provision of comprehensive services in medical, vocational, economic and social spheres in order to make them self-supporting citizens who are an integral part of the society. This is a joint responsibility of the Government, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, NGOs and the community as a whole. Based on the State Policy, the following intensive steps are being taken:

- To assess the nature and extent of the problem of the disabled including the early detection and immunization against polio, measles, rubella, mumps, etc besides supply of aids and appliances suited to the needs of the individual in order to improve mobility and physical capacity.
- To ensure that every disabled child is given free and compulsory primary education, either special education or integrated (inclusive) education, based upon the level of disability of the individual and also to promote the integration of the handicapped students with normal students at every stage depending upon the capacity / level / need of each handicapped child.
- To develop the required skilled manpower by establishing Teacher Training Centres and develop a corps of competent teachers in Educational
Institutions/ Training Centres who have developed a deep understanding of the problems of the handicapped.

- To promote special supportive facilities like scholarship, free transport, supply of teaching aids, special aids and assistive devices, appointment of resource teachers, hostel facility etc., and to help the disabled to pursue appropriate higher education.

- To identify trades suited to each category for the disabled particularly in specific industries and to establish and run training centres for the disabled.

- To arrange financial assistance for the handicapped trainees towards purchase of tools, kits, etc., required by them.

- To enable banks and other financial institutions to assist liberally for self employment ventures.

- To introduce measures for the removal of architectural barriers in all buildings, and to provide easy access to the disabled.

- To take suitable measures to enable the disabled persons to participate in cultural and sports events.

Social Defence

Measures and institutions for protection of children and women from abuse, exploitation, ill treatment, neglect etc under the provision of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and to facilitate their growth and development with the ultimate objective of mainstreaming them are undertaken by the Directorate of Social Defence. Social defence institutions have been in existence ever since Independence. There were reformatory homes under the provisions of erstwhile Tamil Nadu Children Act 1920 (repealed Act). Neglected and delinquent children were admitted in homes through Law Courts. These homes provided care, custody, education, vocational training and rehabilitation to the children. In the wake of the enactment of Juvenile Justice Act 1986, the prevailing trend of reformation slowly transformed in terms of rehabilitation of the deprived children. The Act envisaged separate Juvenile Courts to deal with delinquent children and Juvenile Welfare Boards to deal with neglected children. Under the provisions of Juvenile Justice Act 1986 and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, 8 observation homes, 33 children and special homes for boys and girls, 6 protective/vigilance homes and 3 after care organizations have been established and are run by the Government. The provisions of Juvenile Justice Act of 1986 was repealed by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 in conformity with the United Nations convention on the Rights of child. Based on this, restructuring of the institutions is in process. The Juvenile Welfare Boards which deal with the children in need of care and protection have been named as Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Courts have been restructured as Juvenile Justice Boards and both have been constituted and functioning successfully. On the same line, various child care institutions, under the provision of the Act have been redesignated. The activities initiated by the Department are as follows:-

a. Child Protection

- Tamil Nadu is the first State, to have framed rules under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. The Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of Children) Rules, 2001 were notified in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette extra ordinary No. 94 dt. 14.2.02.

- NGOs’ participation has been ensured. Escorting of children by volunteers from the community has been introduced with the objective of using the community resources adequately. Further, Relief Foundation, an NGO in Chennai has been permitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the Co-

- **CHILDLINE**, a Telephone out-reach programme committed to responding emergency calls to help a child in distress is in operation in Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Salem and Tirunelveli with the financial support from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. In this regard, the special toll free No. 1098 has been earmarked across the country. CHILDLINE has also been introduced by the Police Department using the same number in all women Police Stations to ensure that the services are available for the children across the state, till such time, the scheme is fully funded by Government of India.

- Statutory quasi-judicial bodies like Juvenile Justice Boards (8) to deal with the enquiries relating to children in conflict with law and Child Welfare Committees (18) to deal with the issues relating to children in need of care and protection have been established. The jurisdiction of the each Juvenile Justice Board and Child Welfare Committees has also been fixed to cover the entire State.

- District Advisory Boards in all the districts, which can also function as Inspection Committees under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 have been established under the Chairpersonship of District Collectors to ensure effective measures towards Child Protection. These Boards are representative in nature having members from amongst NGOs, professionals, corporate sectors and Government officials.

- Institutions like 8 Observation Homes, (6 run by the Department and 2 by NGOs funded by the Government) and 2 Special Homes for providing care and protection to children in conflict with law during their enquiry pending before the Juvenile Justice Boards and for their subsequent care for long term intervention have also been established.

- Similarly, 31 Children’s Homes (11 run by the Department and 20 by NGOs funded by the Government) have also been established to provide care for the children in need of care and protection.

- Child abuse is on the increase. Abused children have to live necessarily with the memories of the incidents, which could not be erased. However, the children may be empowered to develop positive reinforcements and coping strategies. In view of the fact, a Crisis Intervention Centre at Chennai has been established. The centre is being managed by Indian Council for Child Welfare with the financial support from the State Budget.

- Child begging is a heinous crime. To address the problems and issues effectively and initiate appropriate measures for the prevention of child begging, Child begging prevention programme is being implemented since 1994 in Chennai. The scheme is being implemented by the Indian Council for Child Welfare, Chennai. Hundreds of children have been weaned away from begging and provided educational and vocational skills. Besides, a city level committee headed by the Director of Social Defence, to prevent child begging in Chennai has been constituted in Nov. 2002 in Chennai involving NGOs, Government Departments and the Municipal Corporation. Campaign against child begging has been conducted in all parts of the city to create mass awareness against the practice.

- 7 night shelters are run by the State through NGOs with financial support of Rs.65500/- per shelter per annum as grant. These night shelters, provide safe place to the street children during night hours and also provide one time
meal, non-formal education, vocational training and contingencies to the children.

b. Women Protection

- Combating trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children is one of the prime concerns of the State Government. In this connection, a State Level Co-ordination Committee, under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary to Government, District Level Advisory Committees under the Chairpersonship of District Collectors, Village Level Watch-dog Committees under the Chairpersonship of Village Panchayat Presidents have been constituted for combating trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children.
- An Action Plan has been approved by the Government assigning responsibilities to different departments to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children effectively.
- An outlay of Rs.2.00 lakhs is provided for ‘setting up of a cell in the Directorate for prevention of trafficking & combating commercial sexual exploitation of women and children’ under new schemes.

c. Others

- Tamil Nadu Social Defence Fund for the Welfare of Women and Children has been instituted to extend financial assistance to deserving women and children.
- The children have been encouraged to continue their education in professional courses like engineering, medical, polytechnics and ITIs.

Welfare of aged

An important feature that characterises social security arrangements in the Indian context is the central role played by the family in acting as a safety net for the elderly in terms of various forms of support such as co-residence, economic assistance and physical care giving. However, with the joint family system breaking down, the State has to play an increasingly important role in the welfare of the aged. In this endeavour, the State has to work in tandem with other institutions like the NGOs.

For the welfare of aged, a (draft) State Policy for Senior citizens has been formulated to secure a life of dignity and respect for senior citizens. The salient features are as follows:

In Tamil Nadu, the proportion of elderly persons has risen from 5.60% in 1961 to 7.45% in 1991 and it is expected to be 9.05% in 2001 and 11.43% in 2011. Socio-economic changes such as emergence of nuclear families, smaller number of children for parents, greater longevity, physical separation of parents from adult children, rapid urbanisation and age selective rural urban migration reveal that ageing will become a social challenge in the future and greater attention needs to be paid to ageing related issues. A number of programmes are being implemented for the welfare of aged in Tamil Nadu. These programmes include old age pension at Rs.200/- p.m., separate and full fledged geriatric service at the Government General Hospital, hospital beds and special out-patient counters at Government hospitals, regular free cataract surgery camps, special and mobile health camps in rural areas, special seat arrangements in Government transport buses, noon meal schemes — i.e. free midday meals plus 2 Kgs. of rice or 4 Kgs. of rice supplied through fair price shops and support to old age homes (13). Besides the Government programmes, there is a significant number of voluntary and private organisations who provide
In order to promote the well being of the older persons and help them lead a
d life of self esteem, many strategies have been spelt out in the (draft) State Policy for Senior Citizens which include micro credit programmes, income generating activities through NGOs, formation of self help groups for elders, special consideration in the matter of settlement of monetary benefits, appropriate legislation for maintaining parents, strengthening the geriatric services at district level, a separate geriatric ward and outpatient department in all medical college hospitals and district hospitals, geriatric mobile units, starting of M.D. course in geriatrics, training course in home nurses, regular health camps exclusively for elders on both curative and preventive measures, day care centres, earmarking certain percentage of houses to older persons under housing schemes, group housing, concession in public transport, help line for elders, community cum day care centres, user friendly public facilities for older persons, award for distinguished NGOs/persons serving elders, Elder’s day celebration, issue of identity cards to senior citizens, creating awareness training on Geriatric care givers by NGOs, counselling to families to take care of the aged parents, formation of peer elder groups, a welfare fund for older persons, providing an ambulance to the old age homes run by the State Government etc.

Tamil Nadu 18 point programme for Welfare of Women and Children

Human development and improvement in quality of life are the ultimate objectives of any welfare State. Planning with a vision for the future is the key tool for achieving these objectives. Planning takes into account the resources required for human development and human resources available for carrying out the plan. Though the planning in social sector was tremendously focussed towards the vulnerable group, achievement was not upto the expected level since the welfare measures drawn under various schemes are implemented vertically and lack of convergence results in adopting scheme approach rather than sector approach. To correct this, a comprehensive action plan was needed combining and promoting synergy among nutrition, health, education and environment adopting “sector wide approach”, so that the end beneficiary gets the maximum benefits from all areas.

The 15 point programme for child welfare drawn up in 1993 was accordingly revamped enriching it with three more vital areas, viz., Adolescent Girls Programme, Early Childhood Care and Development and Self-Help Groups, thus making it a 18 point programme with specific goals. The 18 points are the thrust areas of intervention addressing the needs of the most vulnerable groups viz., women and children.

The programme brings together the important Departments of Government of Tamil Nadu like Department of Social Welfare, Education, Health, Rural Development, Municipal Administration and Water Supply, Labour and other concerned departments for the convergence of all services towards the achievement of the objectives of this programme. Goals have been set for 2010 with interim goals for the year 2003 and 2006. State Level Committee, Heads of Departments’ level Committee and District Level Committee have been formed for the effective implementation and monitoring of the Tamil Nadu 18 Point Programme for women and children welfare.

18 Point Programme for Women and Children

1. Improving the health of adolescents especially adolescent girls
2. To liberate women from the shackles of early and frequent child bearing
3. Eradication of female foeticide and female infanticide
4. Reduction of low birth weight
5. Elimination of vaccine preventable diseases
6. Prevention of disability in early childhood and early detection and intervention
7. Early childhood care and development (ECCD) – Focus on parenting role and responsibilities during the first three years of life
8. Reduction of Infant Mortality
9. Reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among 0-3 years children
10. Elimination of micronutrient deficiencies
   a. Elimination of Vit. A deficiency
   b. Elimination of iodine deficiency disorders
   c. Reduction of anaemia in children, adolescent girls and pregnant women.
11. Popularizing girl child protection scheme and improving the status of the girl child
12. Make all hospitals and maternity centres women and child friendly
13. Prevention and early child identification of heart diseases and free open heart surgeries for children
14. Elimination of child labour
15. Ensuring 8 years of schooling for every child
16. Safe drinking water supply and better access to sanitary facilities at all schools and child care centres
17. Raising women’s literacy and status
18. Empowerment of women through Self Help Groups

Tenth Plan

The outlay approved for Social Welfare for Tenth Plan was Rs. 200 crores. However, in view of accommodating fully the requirements of the ongoing Women’s Development Project and also some of the other ongoing programmes, the requirement for this sector was re-estimated at Rs. 244 crores. During the first two years of Tenth Plan i.e. in 2002-03 and 2003-04, the anticipated expenditure is reported to be Rs.414.30 crores. The hike in expenditure is due to the transfer of a few major non-plan schemes to plan side.

Annual Plan 2004-05

The Departmentwise outlays for Tenth plan, the budgetted outlay and the anticipated expenditure for 2003-04 and the proposed outlay for 2004-05 are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. State Commissionerate of Disabled</td>
<td>3943.00</td>
<td>1030.64</td>
<td>1101.76</td>
<td>1111.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Social Welfare</td>
<td>9295.00</td>
<td>2754.67</td>
<td>3450.21</td>
<td>3419.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Direction &amp; Administration</td>
<td>411.00</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>5.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Child Welfare</td>
<td>6941.00</td>
<td>2086.69</td>
<td>2475.61</td>
<td>2058.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) Women’s Welfare</td>
<td>1599.00</td>
<td>595.42</td>
<td>917.12</td>
<td>1260.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv) Welfare of aged</td>
<td>290.00</td>
<td>61.43</td>
<td>47.34</td>
<td>88.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v) TSP</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>7.13</td>
<td>6.14</td>
<td>6.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. TN Corporation for Devt. of Women Ltd.,</td>
<td>9527.00</td>
<td>2551.40</td>
<td>2551.40</td>
<td>2402.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Social Defence</td>
<td>1635.00</td>
<td>166.40</td>
<td>110.50</td>
<td>157.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Others</td>
<td>16989.59</td>
<td>17256.94</td>
<td>17857.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total – Social Welfare</strong></td>
<td><strong>24400.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>23492.70</strong></td>
<td><strong>24470.81</strong></td>
<td><strong>24748.12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The proposed outlay is Rs.24748.12 lakhs including Rs.317.87 lakhs for new schemes. The details of outlays and programmes for Annual Plans 2003-04 and 2004-05 for each Directorate are given below.

I. State Commissionerate for Disabled

The State Commissionerate for Disabled is providing comprehensive rehabilitation services which include provision of special education, vocational training, placement in jobs, assistance for self employment and free supply of aids and appliances to improve their mobility with the ultimate objective of making the handicapped self-reliant and economically independent. The expenditure anticipated in 2003-04 is Rs. 1101.76 lakhs. The total number of beneficiaries are 33046. An outlay of Rs.1111.73 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05 including Rs.106.90 lakhs for new schemes.

Ongoing schemes

The major ongoing programmes include self-employment scheme, maintenance allowance to the severely disabled persons, scribe assistance to blind students and expenses for the helper, assistance for recanning of wooden furniture by blind persons, starting of the rehabilitation home for the adult mentally retarded girls, extension of concession given to normal persons marrying blind/orthopaedically disabled/speech and hearing impaired, establishment of Government special schools and school for severely orthopaedically handicapped, starting of new schools and higher standards for deaf, assistance to physically handicapped law graduates towards registration fee and purchase of law books, supply of aids and appliances, sports events and cultural programmes for the disabled. The details of ongoing programmes are as follows:

In order to improve the mobility and physical capability of disabled and thereby help them to become self dependent, tri-cycles, hearing aids, goggles and folding sticks with beeper, wheel chairs, solar rechargeable batteries, braille watches, calipers, crutches and artificial limbs are being distributed free of cost to the various types of physically handicapped persons. For this, a sum of Rs.101.02 lakhs is proposed under the scheme for Rehabilitation of handicapped for 2004-05 to benefit 7220 disabled persons.

In order to improve the economic condition of the disabled and make them self-sufficient under Self-employment scheme, the Government recommends their cases to nationalised banks for sanction of loan. Government subsidy is being released at one-third of the loan amount or Rs.2000/- whichever is less.

For the bunk stall scheme, a sum of Rs.5000/- is being given as subsidy. A provision of Rs.20.00 lakhs is proposed for this scheme for the year 2004-05 to benefit 875 disabled persons. Further, the Government have decided to guarantee the loans taken from the National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation.

Under Maintenance allowance to the severely disabled persons, an assistance of Rs.150/- p.m. enhanced to Rs.200/- in 2003-04 is given to the severely disabled children who cannot be rehabilitated by any of the programmes of the Department or any other Department of the Government. The income of the parents/guardians should not exceed Rs.15000/- per annum. A sum of Rs.211.94 lakhs is proposed for the year 2004-05 to benefit 8400 persons.

Under Scribe assistance to blind students and expenses for the helper scheme, honorarium is given to helpers for the blind to write the public examination by taking dictation from the visually handicapped persons appearing for public examinations. A sum of Rs.50/- as honorarium for each
scribe is proposed. The total number of beneficiaries is 200 per year. A sum of Rs.3.35 lakhs is proposed for this scheme for the year 2004-05.

Under Assistance for recanning of wooden furniture by blind persons scheme, employment opportunities are provided to the visually handicapped persons trained in recanning of furniture. 27 persons at the rate of 1 per district on regular pay are employed and a sum of Rs.11.44 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05.

Under Starting of the rehabilitation home for the adult mentally retarded girls scheme, assistance is given to 6 homes for maintenance of adult mentally retarded girls of above 14 years numbering 30 girls in each institution and a sum of Rs.15.00 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05. Assistance is also given to the Non-Governmental organisations for maintaining the mentally retarded children for which a sum of Rs.19.88 lakhs is proposed for the year 2004-05.

Under Extension of concession given to normal persons marrying blind scheme, a certificate of appreciation along with an assistance of Rs.7000/- by way of savings certificate and Rs.3000/- as cash each totalling Rs.10000/- is given to the normal persons marrying blind and a sum of Rs.10.00 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05 to benefit 100 persons. For normal persons marrying orthopaedically disabled, a certificate of appreciation along with an assistance of cash for Rs.3000/- and savings certificate for Rs.7000/- totalling Rs.10000/- is given for which a sum of Rs.14.50 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05 to benefit 145 persons. Similarly for the normal persons marrying speech and hearing impaired, a certificate of appreciation along with an assistance of cash for Rs.3000/- and savings certificate for Rs.7000/- totalling Rs.10000/- is given for which a sum of Rs.14.50 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05 to benefit 145 persons.

Under the scheme of Unemployment allowance to the unemployed visually handicapped persons registered in the employment exchanges, unemployment allowance is being given to the visually handicapped persons who have registered their names in the employment exchanges for a maximum period of 5 years or till they attain 40 years (45 for SC/ ST) whichever is earlier. The rates for matriculation and below are Rs.200/- p.m. and for +2 & PUC pass and graduates/ post graduates, Rs.250/- p.m. and Rs.350/- p.m. respectively. A sum of Rs.30.00 lakhs is proposed for this scheme to benefit 1200 visually handicapped persons. The amount is being disbursed through employment exchanges. For the scheme of School for severely orthopaedically handicapped, a sum of Rs.565.70 lakhs is proposed towards the salaries of the teachers working in 58 special schools.

Other programmes relate to assistance to voluntary institutions for training to teaching the deaf, starting of vocational training in Govt., Sec./ Hr. Sec. for mentally retarded, blind etc., grant for starting of secondary grade teachers training institute for the visually and orthopaedically handicapped persons, establishment of Government special schools and school for severely orthopaedically handicapped, starting of new schools and higher standards for deaf and assistance to physically handicapped law graduates towards registration fee and purchase of law books, for which an amount of Rs.108.45 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2004-05.

**New schemes**

An outlay of Rs.106.90 lakhs is proposed for the new schemes which include purchase of aids and appliances, vocational training course for disabled persons, supply of FM cordless group hearing aids to Govt schools for the deaf, sports events and cultural programmes for the disabled, enhancement of scribe assistance from
Centrally Sponsored Scheme (100%)

A pilot project for rehabilitation services to the handicapped persons was established at Chengalpattu and has been functioning since 1984. An outlay of Rs.36.23 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05.

Under the National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with disability, comprehensive rehabilitation services are provided in the districts of Kanchipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Theni and Ramanathapuram through NGOs. In these districts, 2200 community based rehabilitation workers and 60 multi purpose rehabilitation workers were recruited by NGOs and were given training in prevention, maintenance of high risk register, early identification and intervention, home based rehabilitation training etc, through community participation. An outlay of Rs.200.00 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05.

II. Social Welfare

For the welfare of women, children, poor, destitutes and aged, the expenditure anticipated in 2003-04 is Rs.3450.21 lakhs. The outlay proposed for the Annual Plan 2004-05 is Rs.3419.04 lakhs. The programmes are outlined below.

Ongoing schemes

Child Welfare

The expenditure anticipated for the programmes of child welfare during 2003-04 is Rs.2475.61 lakhs. An outlay of Rs. 2058.18 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05. The ongoing schemes include reception centres for adopting new born female babies, assistance to girl child protection scheme, crèches for working and ailing mothers, etc.

Under Cradle Baby scheme / reception centres, cradles were placed in vital places such as hospitals, PHCs, orphanages and children homes in order to enable the rescue of female children abandoned by their biological parents due to various social circumstances. Full fledged reception centres were set up at Salem, Madurai, Theni, Dindigul and Dharmapuri districts. The children received in the cradle points will be handed over to the reception centres for rehabilitation.

Wide publicity against female infanticide is also given. For this scheme, an amount of Rs.14.58 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05.

In order to promote family planning, to eradicate female infanticide and to discourage preference for male child, girl child protection scheme is being implemented. Under this scheme, if the families who have one girl child and no male children and if either of the parents has undergone sterilization, aged below 35 years and their family income is below Rs.50000/- p.a., an initial deposit of Rs.2200/- for one girl child or Rs.15200/- each for 2 girl children will be made. An amount of Rs.150/- as monthly incentive will be given to the child from the 5th year for educational purpose and on completion of 20 years, the girl child will receive the lumpsum amount. An outlay of Rs.2003.60 lakhs is proposed for this scheme for the Annual Plan 2004-05 to benefit 13121 girl children.

In order to look after the children of working and ailing mothers of low income group, 141 creches are functioning in the State benefitting 3525 children. Each creche looks after 20 children and basic education is also being imparted in these creches. The creches are run by the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board
through selected voluntary organisations. For 2004-05, a sum of Rs.40.00 lakhs is proposed towards the recurring expenditure of Rs.25410 per centre.

### Women’s Welfare

The expenditure anticipated in 2003-04 towards women’s welfare is Rs.917.12 lakhs. The proposed outlay for the programmes of women’s welfare for the Annual Plan 2004-05 is Rs.1260.28 lakhs.

The ongoing schemes include marriage assistance schemes, service homes, guidance bureau for women, setting up of family counselling centres etc. Under marriage assistance schemes, financial assistance is given to daughters of poor widows, orphan girls, widow’s remarriage and inter-caste marriage. The age limit for all the marriage schemes has been fixed as 20 to 30 years. The quantum of assistance of all marriage schemes except inter-caste marriage is fixed as Rs.10,000/- per beneficiary. For inter-caste marriage, the quantum of assistance is fixed as Rs.20,000/- for SC/ST with FC/ BC/ MBC and Rs.10,000/- for BC/ MBC with FC. Totally an outlay of Rs.397.00 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05 to benefit 2600 women. Text books and notebooks will be supplied free of cost to the children of poor widows having a family income of Rs.12000/- per annum which will benefit 10000 children at an outlay of Rs.11.05 lakhs for the Annual Plan 2004-05.

A number of institutions are run to assist women in distress and to help them acquire a better status in society. Seven service homes are run to rehabilitate women in Chennai, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Salem, Tirunelveli, Madurai and Karaiakudi. Women in the age group of 18 to 40 and with income not exceeding Rs.12000/- p.a. are admitted in the service homes with their children and they are provided food, shelter, education, stipend, clothing allowance, vocational training in secretarial course and tailoring, a lumpsum grant for the purchase of raw material etc. Training in nursing, textile and design course, lab technician, computer courses, masala powder making, aavin milk booth, canteen etc., is also imparted to them. A sum of Rs.43.71 lakhs is proposed for the programmes of Service homes for the Annual Plan 2004-05. This will benefit 1115 adult women and 250 children.

20 Guidance Bureaux are functioning in the districts under the control of Office of District Social Welfare Officers. The Guidance Bureau Officer helps needy women especially widows, deserted wives and destitutes in obtaining bank loan, helps women to liaison with other Government departments and in settling Life Insurance Corporation dues, provident fund and pension benefits, etc., and also helps to get admissions for needy children in orphanages, creches etc. A sum of Rs.35.26 lakhs is proposed for this scheme for 2004-05.

Six Family counselling centres are run by NGOs at Namakkal, Karur, Erode, Villupuram, Perambalur and The Nilgiris through the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board. It helps women who approach the centre to redress their grievances relating to dowry harrassment, marital maladjustment, cases of alcoholism and counselling to AIDS victims by giving suitable and appropriate guidance and a sum of Rs.5.11 lakhs is proposed towards the staff salary component for the year 2004-05.

With the aim to rehabilitate the destitute widows, deserted wives, socially handicapped women and physically handicapped men and women in the age group of 20 to 40 years, the scheme on Supply of sewing machines was started in 1979–80 under which sewing machines are being supplied free of cost to these persons who know tailoring so that they can earn money to run their family through self employment. A sum of Rs.115.50 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05 to benefit 16500 persons.
Other programmes relate to legal literacy awareness programme for women and managerial training for field and executive staff for which an amount of Rs.2.65 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2004-05.

**Welfare of poor, aged and destitutes**

The expenditure anticipated for welfare of poor, aged and destitutes in 2003-04 is Rs.47.34 lakhs. The proposed outlay for the Annual Plan 2004-05 is Rs.88.36 lakhs. The ongoing schemes include Govt. orphanages and home for the aged by voluntary agencies. There are 25 Orphanages covering all the districts out of which 4 have 100 children each and 21 have 250 children each. The orphaned, deserted/ destitute/ abandoned children in the age group of 5-18 years are admitted in the orphanages. The children in the orphanages are provided free meals, shelter, clothing, books and note books, education and free medical facilities. A sum of Rs.16.98 lakhs is proposed for this scheme for 2004-05.

In keeping with the growing importance attached to tackling the problems faced by older persons, financial assistance is being given to 13 old age homes run by voluntary institutions. For 2004-05, a sum of Rs.25.00 lakhs is proposed to benefit 380 persons.

Under *Tribal Area Sub Plan*, training in tailoring is imparted to 65 tribal women belonging to Salem, Namakkal and Tiruvannamalai districts by paying a stipend of Rs. 50/- per month. An amount of Rs.6.48 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05.

**New schemes**

An amount of Rs.62.38 lakhs is proposed for the new schemes viz., Management and Information System - training to Superintendents on various schemes implemented by Social Welfare Department, purchase of 1 xerox machine by replacing the old two xerox machines, new computers and "line printer", and purchase of 5 almirahs for the Directorate of Social Welfare, Chennai, construction of 2 new buildings for the Government orphanage at Dharmapuri and Madurai, purchase of 15 roneo machines to 15 Government Orphanages, purchase of 2 steel almirahs for each District Social Welfare Office to keep the applications and registers of the beneficiaries covered under Girl Child Protection Scheme, establishment of libraries and provision of play equipments to the 25 Govt. orphanages, construction of additional 3 class rooms in service home, Tambaram and opening of 3 homes for the aged through voluntary organisations.

**III. Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd.**

The expenditure anticipated in 2003-04 is Rs.2551.40 lakhs. An amount of Rs.2402.81 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05 for ongoing programmes only.

The *Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project (TNWDP)* was initiated in 1989-90, with the assistance of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Initially, it was launched in eight districts. The focus was on the formation of SHGs of poor women to improve their economic position. A group of 10 to 20 persons of similar economic class, generally poor women get together to organize themselves into a cohesive group and start economic activities to improve the social and economic position through collective action. The success of the project led to the announcement of Mahalir Thittam in 1996-97 under State Budget extending the coverage to the entire State in a phased manner. This project is based on a long term partnership among three agencies – the State Government, NGOs and banks / financial institutions. The project is implemented through a network of self help groups (SHGs), federations of SHGs namely Panchayat Level Federations (PLFs), Block Level Federations (BLFs) and District Level Federations (DLFs) established and nurtured with Village Officers support at the field level. As on 31.03.2004, 1.62 lakh Self Help Groups have been formed and 27.50 lakh women have enrolled
themselves with savings estimated at Rs.439.34 crores. Training programmes such as EDP and vocational training are also imparted to them. Members of matured SHGs ready to absorb loans are linked with banks and other financial institutions to avail external credit. As on 31.3.2004, 1,24,288 SHGs have been linked with bank credit at a total financial outlay of Rs.674.19 crores for various rural based activities such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Cottage and Village Industries and other small business / micro enterprises in Urban areas. For 2004-05, the Government will support and motivate the women from the BPL families to join SHGs and achieve the plan of covering another 15 lakh women over the next 3 years. Entrepreneur Development training followed by Vocational and Skill Training are being given as a special thrust for the benefit of SHG members to start their own Micro Enterprises. The focus for 2004-05 will be on socio-economic empowerment of minority community, scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women by making them join the SHG movement, preparation of district specific employment generation plan and micro enterprise development plan suitable to SHG women, action plan to operationalise the marketing linkages for the SHG products, strengthening the role of panchayat level federation and block level federation by providing corpus fund and involving them in imparting capacity building training and EDP training to SHGs and monitoring the SHGs. An outlay of Rs.2000.00 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05.

Other programmes include free gas connection to newly married couples, district level training cum marketing centres, assistance for group formation of 25000 SHGs, assistance to vocational and skill training programme, pilot project for total poverty eradication in Theni district and women recreation centres. A pilot project for total poverty eradication in Theni District was sanctioned in 2003-04 at a total cost of Rs.220.57 lakhs over a period of 4 years from 2003-04 to 2006-07. EDP training to 5000 women and VTP for 3000 women are the components of the scheme. Formation of new SHGs, imparting of capacity building training, EDP and VTP are in progress. New SHGs will also be formed among affected weavers, minorities’ families, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and they will be imparted EDP and VTP. For 2003-04 and 2004-05, an amount of Rs.55.30 lakhs each was proposed for this scheme.

Under Assistance to vocational training programme, an amount of Rs.175 lakhs was sanctioned for imparting training in farm sector and allied activities like vegetable cultivation, floriculture, mulberry cultivation, food processing etc and non farm activities like toy, garments, jute bag, leather bag, palm leaf products making, pottery, handicrafts etc.

Under the scheme of assistance for formation of 25000 SHGs, focus is on formation of groups among SC/ ST families, commercial sex workers, aravanis, disabled women, mothers of disabled children, tribal families in hill areas, fisher folk, weaver communities, youth and artisans etc. As on date about 16576 SHGs have been formed enrolling 2.77 lakh women under this scheme.

As a prelude to the Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project (TNERP) to be taken up with assistance from the World Bank over a period of 6 years with an outlay of Rs.650 crores, the life-time concerns of the 25 of the poorest of the poor (ultra poor) households in each village, as identified by the Village Grama Sabha, would be addressed and they will be trained in new and supplementary avocations. Project strategies include identification of poorest of the poor in each village through participatory identification of the poorest of the poor through wealth ranking, targeting 10% in the bottom quintile under the project, development of strong, cohesive, Self-help Groups (SHG / NHGs) with women / men / youth from the bottom quintile, preparing village development plans for the ultra poor involving the poor, PRIs and SHGs, getting the approval of the village
development plan in Grama Sabha, providing land to the asset less families below the poverty line, providing housing facilities to the targeted group, ensuring 100% enrolment of the children below the poverty line, ensuring education for all and preventing girl child drop outs, providing food security to combat malnutrition, providing functional literacy and numeracy to illiterate women and providing access to credit for income generation programme. The Project is implemented through the Rural Development Department and the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd. The Project cost works out to Rs.6.50 crores under Social Welfare and Rs.5 crores in Rural Development for the year 2004-05. The components of the Project will be based on the requirements and needs of the poor households. The following activities are planned: (1) capacity building for Panchayats and SHGs to function for the development of ultra poor, (2) Skill training for income generating activities, (3) Income Generation Programme by diverting funds from Banks, NGO, RMK for creation of assets to earn a livelihood. This will enable 21660 households in 1083 villages to cross poverty line through training and income generation programmes.

IV. Social Defence

The Directorate of Social Defence is running residential institutions established under the provisions of Juvenile Act 1986 and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956. These institutions provide care, treatment, custody, educational and vocational training, rehabilitation to the children and women who come under the provisions of the above said Acts. An amount of Rs.166.40 lakhs was provided in 2003-04 and against this, the anticipated expenditure is Rs.110.50 lakhs. An outlay of Rs.157.50 lakhs is proposed for 2004-05 which includes Rs. 48.59 lakhs for new schemes.

Ongoing schemes

The ongoing programmes relate to maintenance of homes, training to the inmates in various trades, special care centres, functioning of the state level programme development and monitoring cell etc. The schemewise details are as follows: Under the scheme of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment, maintenance charges of 1780 inmates of Government children/ special/ observation homes and staff salary of these institutions are being shared by Centre and State. The outlay proposed for 2004-05 is Rs. 59.50 lakhs as State’s share.

Under Creation of facilities for the development of child institutions scheme, salaries of two posts of case workers one each to Government juvenile homes at Ranipet and Chennai are met for which the State’s share for Annual Plan 2004-05 is Rs.0.67 lakh. State Level Programme Development and Monitoring Cell is conducting workshops and seminars especially on children in difficult circumstances besides monitoring the programmes for street children implemented by the Non-Governmental Organisations. The amount of Rs.7.36 lakhs proposed for 2004-05 is towards salaries of staff of the Cell.

Half way homes to the girl children in vulnerable condition under NGOs at Ulundurpet, Viralimalai and Namakkal are functioning to accommodate 25 girl children in each home who are found to be facing hardship. Educational and vocational training will be offered to the girls. An amount of Rs.0.78 lakh is proposed for 2004-05 towards food charges, contingencies, purchase of vessels etc.

New schemes

An amount of Rs.48.59 lakhs is proposed for the new schemes which include construction of staff quarters for the superintendents of Government children/ special home at Ranipet, setting up of a cell in the Directorate for prevention of trafficking &
combating commercial sexual exploitation of women and children, providing drinking water facilities to Government children home, Tattaparai, repair/replacement of electrical wiring in two observation homes and in two children homes, special repairs to the buildings of Government children homes at Panchapalli, Mallipudur and Tattaparai, construction of new building for reception unit in the Government children home, Ranipet, special repairs to Government children home, Chengalpet, construction of dormitories in Government children home, Mallipudur, construction of one room for the functioning of Juvenile Justice Boards in six places @ Rs.1.30 lakhs each and construction of dining hall in Government children home, Chengalpet.

V. Miscellaneous programmes

Other programmes include (payment of premium to LIC under powerloom workers Insurance scheme) - OAP schemes (Rs.13535.34 lakhs), implementation of Annapoorna scheme (Rs.547.11 lakhs), widows, handicapped and oldage pensioners' free ration scheme (Rs. 1845.17 lakhs) and supply of dhoties and sarees to old age pensioners (Rs. 1700.00 lakhs). These programme are being implemented through Revenue Department and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department.

Social Security (OAP) schemes

In Tamil Nadu to give social security to old age persons who have no means of subsistence and have no relatives, the Social Welfare Department is implementing the following five social security schemes through the Revenue Department.

i) Old Age pension (Normal) Scheme (From 1.4.1962 : above 65 years)

ii) Destitute physically Handicapped Pension Scheme (From 1.11.1974 : above 45 years)

iii) Destitute Widows Pension Scheme (From 1.6.1975 : no age limit)

iv) Destitute Agricultural Labourers Pension Scheme (From 15.3.1981: 60 years)

v) Deserted wives Pension Scheme (From 25.4.1986: 30 years)

At the time of introduction of the Old Age Pension Scheme, a sum of Rs.20/- per month was paid as pension to each beneficiary and the pension amount has been gradually increased to Rs.50/- in 1982, Rs.100/- in 1995, Rs.150/- in 1998 and a sum of Rs.200/- in 2000. For the normal Old Age Pension Scheme, out of the total of Rs.200/- received by those who are 65 years or more, the Central Government’s contribution is Rs.75/- per month. A total number of 11.97 lakh persons are getting benefit under all these 5 schemes. In addition to this, one saree for female pensioner and one dhoti for male pensioner is given twice a year during Pongal and Deepavali Festivals.

All the Old Age Pension beneficiaries are entitled to draw rice free of cost as per the scale indicated below with effect from 15.9.1991.

i. Free Supply of one kg. of rice per week per head for those who are not taking meals in the Nutritious Meal Programme Centres.

ii. Free supply of ½ kg of rice per week, per head for those who take meals in Nutritious Meal Programme Centres.

The supply of rice is made once in a month. “Annapoorna scheme” was launched by the Government of India during 2000. Under this scheme, 20% of indigent senior citizens getting old age pension are supplied 10 kg of rice every month free of cost. The total number of beneficiaries is 71974. The scheme was transferred to the State Plan from 2002-03. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection is the Nodal Officer for the implementation of this scheme.