

**Honourable Prime Minister and Members
of the National Development Council,**

**It gives me immense pleasure to
attend the National Development Council
meeting convened to discuss the
Mid-term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five
Year Plan and other emerging issues.
I would like to highlight the performance
of schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu.**

**The approved overall size of
Eleventh Plan for Tamil Nadu is
Rs.85,344 crores. We have achieved plan
expenditure of Rs.47,500 crores till
2009-10 and during 2010-11,**

Rs.20,068 crores will be incurred. Government of Tamil Nadu intended to achieve a growth rate of 9% during this Plan period. However, there has been a shortfall due to erratic monsoon and global economic slow down. During 2009-10, the economy is showing signs of revival and we are expecting higher growth rate.

Tamil Nadu being a water starved state, depends on the neighbouring states. The scope for increasing the net cropped area is less, rather it is coming down due to urbanization. Therefore,

serious attempts are being made to increase water use efficiency. The State is therefore, focusing more on increasing productivity through improved methods like System of Rice Intensification (SRI), supply of quality seeds, fertilizers, farm loans and introduction of mechanized farming techniques and micro irrigation. Various techniques introduced by the State is helpful in increasing productivity. Tamil Nadu has also made significant progress in horticulture and floriculture in recent years which will give fillip to agriculture sector.

With the successful implementation of progressive social welfare policy, the State has been maintaining its lead in the country in education and health. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has been reduced to 1.6% in 2008 itself. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Tamil Nadu is the second lowest at the national level and with efforts like 99.5% institutional deliveries and atleast 3 ante-natal check ups for 96.5% of pregnant women, effective steps are being taken to reduce Maternal Mortality Rate.

The net enrolment rates in primary and upper primary levels have increased to 99.5% and 98.8% in 2009-10 respectively. The completion rates in primary and upper primary levels have gone up to 97% and 93% against the target of universalisation in primary level and 95% in upper primary level to be achieved by 2012.

The State has had a very progressive education policy, with increased private sector participation and enrolment ratio in higher education of Tamil Nadu is one of the highest in the

country. Emphasis has been given on increasing number of government institutions also and to improve coverage and efficiency by starting additional courses and shift system for better utilization of infrastructure.

To ensure “Uniform Education” to all the students, the State has enacted Tamil Nadu Uniform System of Education Act and introduced this novel scheme in all the schools across different Boards of Education which will have common syllabi, modern methods of teaching and learning process. The new system of

education, which has been well received by public, will be introduced to all classes from the next academic year.

Tamil Nadu is projected to achieve creation of more than 1.5 million jobs by 2012 as against the target of 2 million jobs despite economic downturn. It is also worth mentioning that the State did not have much of job cuts during this period as the corporate world preferred to retain the highly qualified manpower produced by many top class institutions of the State.

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is being implemented successfully in Tamil Nadu, with 76% women and more than 56% marginalised sections' participation. Tamil Nadu has been complemented by the apex court and media for the successful implementation of this scheme. The Union Government has also awarded 3 districts in 2009 and 2 districts in 2010 for their special achievements under the scheme.

Tamil Nadu has implemented a unique programme known as

“Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam” under which the State will achieve the distinction of being the first State in the country where every village and town panchayat will have all basic infrastructural facilities such as sports center, library, street lights and school building by the end of 2011-12. Tamil Nadu has also taken effective steps to provide clean drinking water in all the 92,689 habitations and 361 Urban Local Bodies.

The State has electrified 100% of its villages and has reached the highest

per capita electricity consumption of 1000 units per annum against the national average of 631 units. The average demand of power in Tamil Nadu is 11,000 MW and with availability being 8000 MW, a gap of 3000 MW exists. It is expected that by the end of the year 2011-12, this gap will be eliminated with various projects in pipeline which are expected to create around 6500 MW additional installed capacity in the State. However, for these projects to get commissioned on schedule, Tamil Nadu looks forward to early approvals for coal

linkages from the Coal Ministry which is keeping all such projects pending which are due to be commissioned after the 11th Plan period. These delays are also affecting the environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forest for these projects. We also hope for early commissioning of atomic energy plant at Koodangulam, in Tirunelveli District which will provide 960 MW additional power for the State.

To make Tamil Nadu the first hut free State in India, the State Government has introduced Chief Minister's Housing

Scheme to construct permanent concrete houses for 21 lakh poor families in rural areas at an overall cost of Rs.18,000 crores within a period of six years with funds from its own limited resources. In order to help the State to achieve this dream, more number of houses under “Indira Awas Yojana” may be considered by the Government of India under which the State gives substantial additional fund for RCC roof construction for each unit.

“Kalaingar Kappettu Thittam” – a life saving health scheme has been

introduced in Tamil Nadu which covers 1.44 crore families. A family can get treatment for upto Rs.1 lakh free of cost in approved private hospitals for specified life threatening diseases. As on 15.07.2010, 1,47,281 patients have availed of free treatment worth Rs.400.28 crores.

Here, I suggest that Government of India may consider launching a scheme similar to Kalaignar Housing Scheme at all India level so as to replace all huts with concrete houses in a stipulated time frame. Similarly, it is suggested that the

Rashtriya Swasthya Beema Yojana may be redesigned on the pattern of our Kalaighar Health Insurance Scheme for better access to the poor.

Tamil Nadu has initiated projects for linking of intra-state rivers. This requires substantial funding from the Government of India as State Government has limits on mobilization of funds, though benefits of agricultural growth will accrue to the whole nation.

We have been strongly urging the Central Government to initiate talks with

the State Governments, particularly with the Southern States for inter-linking of rivers so as to make effective use of water for irrigation and drinking purposes. I take this opportunity to urge the Planning Commission and the Government of India to initiate steps in this direction.

Tamil Nadu is in a unique position to embark upon ecologically empathetic programmes and innovative schemes to substantially increase carbon absorbing capacity of the forests for mitigating global warming. To make such good

things happen, I am requesting the Government of India to release liberal funding for the projects from Tamil Nadu out of the Rs.5,000 crores earmarked by the Government of India exclusively for implementation of such Environmental Protection Programmes. Tamil Nadu has also established “Environment Protection and Renewable Energy Development Fund” with an outlay of Rs.10 crore in 2010-11.

Under the Prime Minister’s Gram Sadak Yojana, link roads to all the habitations with more than

1000 population have been provided in Tamil Nadu. I request that funds may be provided to construct new link roads for habitations with more than 250 population and for upgrading the existing village roads as per the objectives of Bharath Nirman.

I would like to point out here that different States in the country are at different stages of development and each one has varied needs. I reiterate that formulation of schemes by Government of India should provide flexibility to the State government to

modify the schemes to suit local conditions.

It is also pertinent to mention that Tamil Nadu is vigilant on security issues and takes all efforts to modernize its police forces so that they are equipped to handle any situation. However, in the recent times, the need for strengthening coastal security has been strongly felt. While land security remains the responsibility of the State government which takes care of law and order, primary responsibility of shallow water security should be undertaken by

Government of India alike the safety of border areas which is taken care of by the Border Security Forces.

Social justice and equity have always remained the corner stone of our policies. Hence, we strongly believe that promoting sustainable human development and providing social justice will be the real solution to the problems faced by the country.

Vanakkam.
