

## CHAPTER - V

### SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

#### 5.1 Externally Aided Projects :

##### On Going Project:

##### 5.1.1 Tank Rehabilitation Project

In Pondicherry Region, there are 84 minor irrigation tanks, having a total ayacut of 6456 Ha. Excepting routine maintenance works, no major improvement works were undertaken in these tanks for decades. With the result, most of the tanks have become defunct. Due to over exploitation of groundwater for agriculture for all the three crops, the groundwater level has lowered considerably resulting intrusion of saline water.

In order to rehabilitate the irrigation tanks mentioned above, a scheme costing to Rs.34.73 crores was formulated with financial assistance from the European Union. Necessary Financing Agreement with the European Union was concluded on 27th February 1997. Out of the project cost of Rs.34.73 crores, the European Union's contribution will be Rs.28.13 crores. Government of Pondicherry contributes Rs.4.40 crores and the Farmers contribution is Rs.2.20 crores.

Under this project, it was proposed to stabilise the existing registered ayacut of 6456 Ha. with assured irrigation thereby restoring agricultural income from irrigated crop production, diminish reliance on underground water resources and halting the process of saline water intrusion into sweet water aquifers through an institutional frame work with the involvement of farmers in the form of Water Users' Associations.

Based on the Inception Workplan formulated for Rs.47.70 lakhs for the startup year 1999-2000, the European Union released Rs.32.10 lakhs in January'2000. Under the Inception workplan, office infrastructure was created and the total expenditure incurred was Rs.40.00 lakhs.

The overall workplan and the First Annual Workplan (for PILOR WORKS) were approved by the European Union in February 2000. European Union released Rs.173 lakhs towards the First Annual Workplan in July, 2000. Under First Annual Workplan, rehabilitation works in 3 Pilot Tanks at Vadhanur, Kieelparikalpet & Kariamanickam were taken up by the Respective Tank Associations and completed in all aspects. The actual expenditure incurred towards the First Annual Workplan was Rs.130.00 lakhs.

13 Tanks were identified as First Batch for Rehabilitation during 2001-02 and necessary Water Users Associations in 12 Tanks were formed and registered with the Registrar of Companies under the Societies Registration Act. (Tank Association could not be formed in one tank due to conflict between 2 groups in the village). The physical works in these 12 tanks, have been completed through respective Tank Associations.

The Steering Committee in its 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 22.02.2001, identified 27 tanks as Second Batch for rehabilitation during 2002-03 and finalised the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Workplan for Rs.512 lakhs (for 1 Batch Tanks). Tank Associations have already been formed and registered for all these 27 tanks. Physical works in these tanks have commenced from May' 2002 and at present 80% works have been completed. Further works are in progress. (The delay is mainly due to stagnation of water in some tanks and eviction of encroachments). The European Union approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Workplan in April, 2001 and released of Rs.346 lakhs in June, 2002. The actual expenditure towards Second Annual Workplan was Rs.123 lakhs.

In the Fifth Meeting held on 27.2.2002, the Steering Committee identified 25 Tanks as Third Batch for rehabilitation during for 2003-04 and finalised the Third Annual Workplan for Rs.758 lakhs (for II Batch Tanks). The European Union approved the Third Annual Workplan in June, 2002 and released Rs.215 lakhs in December, 2002. Community Organising and investigation in the Third Batch Tanks have started from January, 2003. Physical works in these tanks have commenced from May, 2003. The expenditure towards the Third Annual Workplan is Rs.192 lakhs.

The Steering Committee, in its VI Meeting held on 24.02.2002, identified 17 tanks for rehabilitation during 2004-05 as last Batch and finalised the Fourth Annual Workplan for Rs.620.00 lakhs (for III Batch Tanks). Approval for Fourth Annual Workplan was received from the European Union Delegation in New Delhi in May, 2003. European Union is yet to release its contribution for IV Annual Workplan. But works have already been started utilizing the amount advanced by GoP.

The Project also provides for Tree-plantation programme. Tree-plantation is proposed on the tank bunds and in water spread area. The Tank Associations are given training for planning of plantations, establishing nurseries and maintenance. This programme is carried out in close co-ordination with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Forests & Wildlife. So far about 15,000 saplings have been planted under the Project.

The Project also provides for Training in and stimulation for Tank Associations to take up fish cultivation in the various tanks rehabilitated under the Project. Under this programme, an amount of Rs.10,000/- is given as subsidy to each tank to buy fingerlings and fish food. Necessary advise and training in fish cultivation to the Tank Associations is imparted through Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pondicherry. So far, an amount of Rs.4.30 lakhs was given as subsidy towards fish culture.

The administration has requested for extension of the project for two years due to delay in the initial period. The European Union has rejected the request mainly on the ground that the electricity tariff should be revised, by removing electricity subsidy to the farmers, which could not be presently enforced. Planning Commission may take it up with the Ministry of Economic Affairs for extension of the programme since it has yielded good results on recharge point of view. The ground water and borewell levels have increased nearly to a height of 10 metres in certain areas in the recent monsoon.

## New projects

### 5.1.2 Hydrology Project-II in Pondicherry region with World Bank loan Assistance

The Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India have decided to bring all information relating to surface water, groundwater, water quality and hydrometeorology under one roof throughout India in a common platform namely Water Information System for better water resources planning in future. To achieve this objective, necessary infrastructure was created with the loan assistance of the World Bank in nine peninsular states and five central agencies in the first phase as Hydrology Project-I in the year 1995. Now, the World Bank has shown its inclination for taking up a follow up project, as Hydrology Project-II in four new states including of Pondicherry and five new central agencies. Based on the request of the Ministry of Water Resources, a detailed project proposal for implementation of Hydrology Project-II in Pondicherry region with an outlay of around Rs.13 Crores was sent to the Ministry of Water Resources in the year 2002. Subsequent to the series of discussions with the Ministry of Water Resources and the World Bank Team by the administration, the proposal was finalized to Rs.16.02 Crores including provision for contingencies. The final negotiations were held in June' 2004 at New Delhi to record and clarify the understanding reached between the Indian delegation and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) relating to the draft project appraisal document (PAD), the draft loan agreement (LA) and the draft project agreement (PA).

The actual cost of the project inclusive of contingencies is Rs.16.02 Crores for Pondicherry region and the period of the project is 6 years starting from December 2004. As per norms for availing the credit assistance from the World Bank, the implementing agency has to spend the money initially from its own budgetary allocations and thereafter the amount spent will be reimbursed. The planned year wise expenditure towards implementation of the project is furnished hereunder.

(Rs. crore)

Table - 23

Year	Anticipated Expenditure
2004-05	1.38
2005-06	3.67
2006-07	4.25
2007-08	3.34
2008-09	1.79
2009-10	1.59

The agreement for extending the loan assistance between the Government of India and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is programmed

to be executed in the month of November / December 2004 at New Delhi. A sum of Rs.1.00 crore is already provided under State Plan in the Annual Plan 2004-05 to commence preliminary works relating to this project.

### **5.1.3 Improvements to urban and sub urban roads**

This Union Territory today has a network of 577 Km. of roads. Due to the increase in population both permanent and floating, rapid industrialisation, there is heavy increase in the movement of vehicles including heavily loaded pneumatic wheeled vehicles carrying Industrial products, machineries, chemicals, etc. This has made it essential to think of urgent improvements to the roads to cope up with the present day traffic growth both in urban and rural areas. A project for Rs.504.00 crore has been prepared taking into consideration all the requirements like widening, strengthening, proper facilities, geometric, construction/ reconstruction of bridges and culverts, subways, flyovers, etc. Considering the magnitude of this mega project it is proposed to take up the project in 3 phases. After discussion with the Ministry of Surface Transport, the Phase-I of the Project Report has been submitted. The Total Cost of the Project (Phase-I) is **Rs.150.00 crore**. The donor agency is yet to be identified.

### **5.1.4 Comprehensive urban water supply scheme utilizing surface water from Oussudu tank and augmentation of water supply to the left out urban areas of Pondicherry region**

Pondicherry town a part of erstwhile French colony has been depending on ground water for meeting all the water requirements. The estimated ground water drawal is around 154.6MCM to meet the water demand and the replenishment is 152MCM per annum. This indicates maximum utilization of ground water has been reached. In order to meet the demand in a phased manner and to ensure protected water supply at 140 lpcd, for the entire urban areas utilization of surface water is proposed from Oussudu tank.

The augmentation of water supply scheme is being implemented in a phased manner. For this purpose the urban area of Pondicherry has been identified under nine zones. Out of these nine zones, water supply to three of the zones covering Thattanchavady, Muthirapalayam and Pavazhakaranchavady in Zone-IV, VII & VIII are to be taken up. The ultimate projected population that would benefit under this scheme in would be 1.57 lakhs. The estimate cost would be Rs.16.00 crores.

Present extraction of the existing ground water sources for the urban area of Pondicherry has been estimated and also the demand for each of the nine zones has been computed for the design horizon of year 2031 and intermediate periods of 2011 and 2021 based on the projected population for these years.

The hydrology of the two surface sources namely Bahour tank and Oussudu tank, proposed to be utilized for domestic supplies has been worked out. The contribution for the storage due to rainfall run off for these two tanks is found to be not significant. The storage in these two tanks mostly depend on the supply channels feeding these two tanks.

No surplus storage is available at Bahour tank after meeting the irrigation requirements. It is estimated that about 33 MLD can be drawn from Oussudu tank after meeting the current irrigation requirements for a period of about 5 months in a year till 2011, beyond which the agricultural demand is expected to cease due to urbanization. A quantity of about 32 MLD can be drawn throughout the year after 2011. Proposals have been formulated for drawing about 32 MLD from Oussudu tank treat and supply about 30 MLD to some parts of Pondicherry and reduce ground water extraction from the respective areas to that extent up to the year 2011.

Raw water from Oussudu tank will be drawn through an intake tower and pumped to a distance of about 3.6 km through a 700 mm dia DI main laid along the road margin to the treatment plant proposed to be located at a site adjoining existing Muthrapalayam head works. Land to an extent of about 7 ha., is proposed to be acquired for the treatment plant.

The treatment plant is not likely to be operated for about 7 months in a year till about 2011. Considering the idle period in a year and the inherent advantages, a slow sand filter plant is preferred to a conventional rapid gravity filter. Appropriate clear water transmission mains to the Zones-I, II and III from the treatment plant have been provided so that water from Oussudu source can be supplied mainly to these zones.

The capital cost of the project has been arrived at as Rs.23.18 crores. The cost estimates are based on the Pondicherry Schedule of rates for the year 1998-1999, market rates & DGS&D rates etc., as appropriate. Price & physical contingencies @ 5% each and Project Management Cost @ 5% each have been included besides the provision of Rs.200 lakhs towards land acquisition. The total cost of the project would be **Rs.39.18 crores**.

### **5.1.5 Sewerage scheme for the urban area of Pondicherry**

The Urban area of Pondicherry has an area of 24.33 sq.km. and a population 7,35,004 as per 2001 census. The government has recognized that a comprehensive sewerage scheme is essential to ensure better environment for the general population and also to prevent outbreak of epidemics. To facilitate preparation of a comprehensive scheme, the urban area has been divided into six zones according to land use and density of population. Comprehensive underground sewerage scheme for Zone-I was completed during 1980 at a cost of Rs.210.50 lakhs and Zone II was commissioned during 1997 at a cost of Rs.222 lakhs. The sewage from these systems are treated in oxidation ponds located 8 Km away from the town. The present proposal at an estimate cost of Rs.124 crores is for a sewerage scheme for the remaining four zones. The cost of the scheme includes sewers, pumping facilities, and sewage treatment plant and land acquisition.

The sewerage system in this proposal is designed to serve the projected population over the next 30 years. Per capita rate of water supply considered for design is 140 litres/day. In addition, a ground water infiltration rate of 20,000 litres per day per hectare. has been adopted in the design of sewer system.

Salt glazed stoneware pipes and specials of grade AA conforming to IS 651/1971 will be used. In case of C.I. pipes for trunk sewer the pipe will be of class LA as per IS 1536/1976. For suction and delivery lines which are exposed C.I. pipe with flanged end of class "B" conforming to IS 7181/74 will be used. C.I. manhole cover will be used for manholes and flushing tanks C.I. pipes conforming to IS No. 5455/69 will be used for sewer appurtenances. Pig lead conforming to IS 872 will be used for joining C.I. pipes and specials. The work would be carried out in accordance with IS 783. The C.I. pipe will be joined according to IS 782 and laid according to IS 3114. Testing of pipe shall be done according to IS 4127/1967

In each Zone, there will be one main pumping station and one sub pumping station. Each pumping station will have screen well cum grit well and a collection well. The main pumping station will have 3 Nos. of 180 HP motor pump set and the sub pumping station will have 2 Nos. of 75 HP motor and generator set facilities.

The sewage collected from the various zones in oxidation ponds at various locations would be treated. The effluent is proposed to be utilized for raising fodder crops and fruit bearing trees. The oxidation pond will be designed for a per capita rate of sewage flow of 140 litres with an infiltration rate of 20,000 litres / hectare with a detention period of 5 days, adopting a liquid depth of 1.20 m. It is proposed to acquire 200 Hectares of land for construction of pond and farm at a distance of 7 KM from the urban limit. 1.2 Hectares of land will have to be acquired for setting up of main and sub pumping stations within the urban limit. The total cost of the project is **Rs.124 crore**. The comprehensive urban water supply scheme (5.1.4.) and sewerage scheme (5.1.5.) have been proposed as one project and sent to Department of Economic Affairs for assistance under Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The project under consideration by JBIC.

#### **5.1.6 Women and Children Hospital, Pondicherry**

It is proposed to construct 700 bedded Women and Children Hospital at Pondicherry. Land for the above project has been acquired and compound wall has been provided. The hospital will have an Outpatient department, Well baby clinic, Labour, Antenatal and Postnatal wards, Operation theatre and post operative wards, It will also comprises of Administrative block, Library. The pediatric department will consist of 150 beds with respiratory acute gastro enteritis, general, special and post operative wards. The total area proposed for the construction of hospital is 45,000 sq.mt. which is inclusive of the basement and services area. The total cost of the project is **Rs.53 crore** and the donor agency is yet to be identified. Land to an extent of 3H 51 A 32 Ca has been acquired at a cost of Rs.9.40 crores for the above project.

## **5.2 SUMMARY OF PONDICHERRY VISION 2020**

The vision for 2020 has to be related to the achievements of the present as well as the weakness that exist, as achievements will be the foundations on which we have to build the desired structure. Pondicherry's economy and society has many favourable features that make possible and aid the building up of a prosperous and growing economy, benefits of growth derived would be widely shared. While the objective conditions are favourable, it is necessary that the required policies are formulated and implemented.

In recent years, since liberalisation, Pondicherry has grown at a very high annual average rate (12.8 per cent). It would not be possible to sustain such a high rate of growth over a long period. A more realistic goal for the decade 2000-2010 would be around 8 per cent per annum for GSDP. In the next decade (2010-2020) GSDP would be projected to grow at 7 per cent per annum.

### **ECONOMY**

In order to achieve an overall GSDP growth rate of 8 per cent, it would be necessary to have a growth rate of around 10 per cent in the secondary sector and 6 per cent in the tertiary sector to compensate for a low growth rate of about 2 per cent in the agricultural sector. If industry and services grow at rates very much faster than agriculture, then the relative contribution of agriculture will further fall in the second decade.

Most of the basic goals have to be achieved by the initiative and endeavours of the people themselves. But the Government has to play a crucial enabling, supporting and regulatory role. The Government would have to undertake specially the following:

- Create and maintain the necessary economic infrastructure in collaboration wherever possible with the private sector.
- Set up a regulatory framework needed in a liberalised economy in areas falling within the state's jurisdiction.
- Pursue policies and allocate adequate funds from the budget to raise indicators of good health
- Universalise Primary education to high levels such as in Kerala.
- Further expand access to health and sanitation facilities
- Implement policies for protecting the environment
- Take specific steps to improve governance

### **AGRICULTURE**

There is little scope for increasing agricultural production through expanding the net area under cultivation in the Union Territory. Given the likely increase in the use of cultivable land for housing, roads, industries, and other non-agricultural purposes, the extent of the present cultivated area might even shrink further during the next few decades. However, the possibilities of achieving higher agricultural

growth through some basic changes such as crop diversification and introduction of less water consuming crops should be explored.

## **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Initiatives in terms of industrial growth in the future need to take into account the relative growth of industries as well as the priorities of the Union Territory as articulated in the Industrial Policy of 1997. For example, while the chemical industry has been growing at fast rates since the eighties, it is potentially hazardous industry in terms of environmental damage. The Union Territory government will, therefore, has to take initiatives that ensure, industrialisation is sustainable both in terms of taking measures to prevent damage to the environment and in terms of promoting environmentally more friendly industries. Since groundwater is already heavily utilised, water intensive industries could be discouraged. Emphasis on employment generation will be necessary, while framing Industrial Policy.

## **SERVICES SECTOR**

### ***Priorities For Infrastructure Services***

The Pondicherry Government needs to take some bold policy decisions with regard to infrastructure:

- remodeling government agencies so that the provision of infrastructure facilities is more efficient,
- increasing the budgetary support given to infrastructure development agencies,
- reforming the sector so that private players play a more important role in the future,
- providing the necessary incentives to the private sector, and these should be encouraged to participate in infrastructure development, and
- rationalising the pricing structure so that prices more accurately reflect the economic costs.

### ***Higher Education***

A two-fold strategy is required to harness Pondicherry's comparative advantage in higher education. First of all, efforts need to be made to promote professional courses. Along with existing areas of comparative advantage such as medicine, Pondicherry should develop skills in emerging industries such as biotechnology and information technology. As stated elsewhere in the report, standards of advanced courses in Information Technology and Computer Engineering have to be immediately upgraded.

## **Information Technology**

A number of realisable goals of IT policy need to be used as benchmarks.



They include:

- (1) Developing the infrastructure which is needed to attract IT industries to the Union Territory
- (2) Promoting the IT industry (and especially IT-enabled industries) as a major actor in the economy
- (3) Introducing e-governance and ensuring that all departments completely switch over to e-governance
- (4) Encouraging the growth of IT-education centres (both public and private) which impart high-quality (and updated) education.

## **Tourism**

Pondicherry's tourism vision over the next twenty years should include the following:

- 1) identifying potential new tourist sites within the Union Territory and developing them within a framework of ecotourism,
- 2) upgrading hotel infrastructure to acceptable service standards,
- 3) improving physical infrastructure
- 4) introducing courses in tourism related topics so as to improve the quality of trained personnel,
- 5) establishing a strong promotional base for the tourist industry, and
- 6) promoting private sector participation in tourism-related activities and in the operation and maintenance of tourist and heritage sites.

## **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Pondicherry has the distinction of being a Union Territory with a high growth rate of per capita income. In terms of the total Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) the banking sector which contributed only 4 per cent in 1993-94 had increased to 5.4 per cent in 1998-99. An indicator of the growth of this sector is perhaps captured more sharply by the growth rate of the bank deposits of the scheduled commercial banks operating in the state. The growth rate of deposits which has been 9.64 per cent per year should see a similar growth of around 10 per cent in the next decade as well.

## **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

The Union Territory of Pondicherry is among the top achievers of human development in the country today. This high level of human development has been made possible by the prominent presence of the public sector in the provision of

health, education and public utilities. Moreover, this success of human development has taken place inspite of its high population growth caused mainly by migration.

The following policy goals are worth mentioning here:

- Improve educational and health care services to international standards in the next 20 years.
- Provision of Shelter for All by 2020 should be given high priority.
- Implementation of poverty eradication programmes should be made effective to reduce proportion of population living below poverty line to zero by 2020.
- Facilitate increase in employment opportunities in the private sector.
- Casualisation of labour should be reduced through implementation of social security network and providing retraining facilities for labour.

## **POWER SECTOR**

Pondicherry has historically had the reputation of offering a stable supply of electricity at cheaper rates, especially compared to its neighbours Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Such a favourable scenario of quality electricity supply at cheaper rates combined with power tariff concessions for the first 5 years of operation and other tax concessions offered by the UT government made this an attractive destination for setting up industries and for domestic settlements.

## **WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Serious water management problems are likely to occur in the Pondicherry region, if adequate remedial measures and policies are not taken up in earliest by the Union Territory. Further more, the Union Territory is already facing a growing urban demand, which has to be balanced against the declining agricultural use for irrigation. These trade offs can be managed only if there is proper regulation of ground water extraction.

## **HOUSING AND SLUMS**

The Government will have to take a number of steps to address the problem of housing shortage. Given the government's own projections of housing shortage for the year 2001, it is unlikely that the government can meet these demands on its own. The Government should, therefore, focus primarily on low income (and to some extent middle income) housing and slum upgradation and improvement.

The slum clearance board will have to play much more active role in the future given the growth of slums in Pondicherry. The current focus on slum upgradation and environmental improvements, promoted through the national slum developmental programme, needs to be further emphasized. However, in addition to physical upgradation of slums, efforts must be made to provide economic

opportunities for slum dwellers as well.

A comprehensive housing policy must be formulated for Pondicherry, which maps out a new facilitating role for the Government and a more active role for the private sector. This housing policy must also move away from an emphasis only on physical construction to housing in terms of residential development. This should be done in a phased manner, which highlights Pondicherry's rich cultural tradition and creates an attractive urban landscape.

## **URBAN GOVERNANCE**

Rapid urbanisation requires an institutional set up that can respond to urban concerns and issues in a responsible and integrated manner. The Town and Country Planning Department has to plan for the urban future of Pondicherry. A high priority would be the preparation of a regional plan for Pondicherry. Similarly a regional plan has to be prepared for the Karaikal region. Infrastructure investments should be made consistent with the Regional Plan. The Town and Country Planning Department should have links with all the line agencies dealing with housing, roads, water and sewer, environment and industries.

Heritage is an integral part of the urban fabric of Pondicherry. An inventory of heritage buildings as well as provision for a heritage fund must be made to improve the structures in the historical areas. The protection of heritage is discussed at length in the section on tourism. The Housing and Urban Development policy for Pondicherry must emphasize the rich cultural and historical tradition of the Union Territory.

The 74th Amendment to the Constitution has prescribed that local functions be delegated to the urban local bodies. This is a good opportunity for the Union Territory government to shed some of its functions to the municipalities and the Urban commune panchayats. Local functions such as water supply, sewage, solid waste management, streets, etc. should be delegated to the urban local bodies. If Pondicherry and Oulgaret municipalities are merged into a single corporation, the new corporation can carry out the local functions envisaged in the Twelfth Schedule.

### **5.3 SALIENT FEATURES OF NATIONAL COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME (NCMP) OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

Government of India announced National Common Minimum Programme in May'2004. The salient features of the Common Minimum Programme are as follows:-

#### **Employment**

- National Employment Guarantee Act will be enacted.
- The functioning of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will be revamped and a new programme for the modernization will be launched.
- Investment, credit and technological priority will be given to the continued growth of agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, floriculture, afforestation, dairying and agro-processing that will significantly add to the creation of new jobs.
- It will be ensured that the service industry will be given all support to fulfill its true growth and employment potential.
- The textile industry will be enabled to meet new challenges imposed by the abolition of quotas under the international multi-fibre agreement in January 2005.

#### **Agriculture**

- It will be ensured that public investment in agricultural research and extension, rural infrastructure and irrigation is stepped up in a significant manner at the very earliest. Irrigation will receive the highest investment priority.
- The rural cooperative credit system will be nursed back to health. The government will ensure that the flow of rural credit is doubled in the next three years.
- A special programme will be introduced for dry land farming in the arid and semi-arid regions of the country.
- The implementation of minimum wage laws for farm labour will be ensured.

- A Constitutional Amendment to ensure the democratic, autonomous and professional functioning of cooperatives will be brought forward.
- It will be ensured that adequate protection is provided to all farmers from imports, particularly when international prices fall sharply.
- It will be ensured that government agencies entrusted with the responsibility for procurement and marketing.
- Steps will be taken to ensure that dues to all farmers including sugarcane farmers will be cleared at the earliest.

### **Education, Health**

- It is pledged to raise public spending in education to least 6% of GDP with at least half this amount being spent of primary and secondary sectors.
- Immediate steps will be taken to reverse the trend of communalization of education.
- Academic excellence and professional competence will be the sole criteria for all appointments to bodies like the Indian Council for Historical Research etc.,
- A national cooked nutritious mid-day meal scheme funded mainly by the central government, will be introduced in primary and secondary schools
- Public spending on health will be raised to at least 2-3% of GDP over the next five years with focus on primary health care.
- All steps will be taken to ensure availability of life-savings drugs at reasonable prices.

### **Women and Children**

- It will be ensured that at least one-third of all funds flowing into panchayats will be earmarked for programmes for the development of women and children.
- Complete legal equality for women in all spheres will be made a practical reality.

- The government will bring about a major expansion in schemes for micro-finance based on self-help groups.
- The government is committed to replicating all over the country the success that some southern and other states have had in family planning.

### **Food and Nutrition Security**

- A comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security will be worked out, in the next three months
- The public distribution system (PDS) will be strengthened particularly in the poorest and backward blocks of the country and also involve women's and ex-servicemen's cooperatives in its management. Special schemes to reach foodgrains to the most destitute and infirm will be launched.
- Nutrition programmes, particularly for the girl child will be expanded.

### **Panchayati Raj**

- It will be ensured that all funds given to states for implementation of poverty alleviation and rural development schemes by Panchayats are neither delayed nor diverted. Strict monitoring of these programmes will be done.

### **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes**

- All reservation quotas, including those relating to promotions, will be fulfilled in a time-bound manner. To codify all reservations, a Reservation Act will be enacted.
- The government is very sensitive to the issue of affirmative action, including reservations, in the private sector.

### **Social Harmony, Welfare of Minorities**

- The Government is committed to the implementation of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1992.

- The Government will enact a model comprehensive law to deal with communal violence and encourage each state to adopt that law to generate faith and confidence in minority communities.
- The Government will amend the Constitution to establish a Commission for Minority Educational Institutions that will provide direct affiliation for minority professional institutions to central universities.
- The Government will promote modern and technical education among all minority communities.
- The Government will establish a National Commission to see how best the welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservations in education and employment, is enhanced. The Commission will be given six months to submit its report.
- Adequate funds will be provided to the National Minorities Development Corporation to ensure its effective functioning.
- The National Integration Council will be restructured and revived so as to fulfill its original objectives. It will meet at least twice a year.

## **Infrastructure**

- Highest priority will be given to the development and expansion of physical infrastructure like roads, highways, ports, power, railways, water supply, sewage treatment and sanitation.
- The review of the Electricity Act, 2003 will be undertaken in view of the concern expressed by a number of states. The mandatory date of June 10, 2004 for unbundling and replacing the state electricity boards will be extended. The government also reiterates its commitment to an increased role for private generation of power and more importantly power distribution.
- The government commits itself to a comprehensive programme of urban renewal and to a massive expansion of social housing in towns and cities, paying particular attention to the needs of slum dwellers.
- Special attention will be given to augmenting and modernizing rural infrastructure.

## **Water Resources**

- The government will make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with the south-bound rivers.

## **Regional Development, Centre-State Relations**

- The government is committed to redressing growing regional imbalances both among states as well as within states, through fiscal, administrative, investment and other means.
- A structured and transparent approach to alleviate the burden of debt on states will be adopted at the earliest, so as to enable them to increase social sector investments. Interest rates on loans to states will be reduced and the share of states in the single, divisible pool of taxes enhanced.
- The government will make the National Development Council (NDC) a more effective instrument of cooperative federalism.
- The Inter-State Council will also be activated. All centrally-sponsored schemes except in national priority areas like family planning will be transferred to states.

## **Administrative Reforms**

- An Administrative Reforms Commission will be set up to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system.
- The government will take the leadership role to drastically cut delays in High Courts and lower levels of the judiciary. Legal aid services will be expanded. Judicial reforms will be given a fresh momentum.
- As part of its commitment to electoral reforms, the Government will initiate steps to introduce state funding of elections at the earliest.

## **Industry**

- All necessary steps will be taken to revive industrial growth and put it on a robust footing, through a range of policies including deregulation, where necessary Incentives to boost private investment will be introduced.



- National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council will be set up to provide a continuing forum for policy dialogue to energise and sustain the growth of manufacturing industry.
- Household and artisanal manufacturing will be given greater technological, investment and marketing support.
- Competition in the financial sector will be expanded. Public sector banks will be given full managerial autonomy. Interest rates will provide incentives both to investors and savers, particularly pensioners and senior citizens.

### **Labour**

- The Government is firmly committed to ensure the welfare and well-being of all workers, particularly those in the unorganized sector who constitute 93% of our workforce. Social security, health insurance and other schemes for such workers like weavers, handloom workers, fishermen and fisherwomen, toddy tappers, leather workers, plantation labour, beedi workers, etc will be expanded.

### **Public sector**

- The Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector and is pledged to devolve full managerial and commercial autonomy to successful, profit—making companies operating in a competitive environment.
- All privatizations will be considered on a transparent and consultative case-by-case basis.

### **Fiscal Policy**

- All subsidies will be targeted sharply at the poor and the truly needy like small and marginal farmers, farm labour and the urban poor.
- Steps will be taken for early introduction of VAT after all the necessary technical and administrative homework has been completed, particularly on issues like the integration of service sector taxation and compensation to states.

### **Economic Reforms**

- The Government is committed to economic reforms with a human face, that stimulates growth, investment and employment.

## **Science and Technology**

- The government will follow policies and introduce programmes that strengthen India's vast science and technology infrastructure.

Government of Pondicherry is fully committed to implement National Common Minimum Programme announced by Government of India in May 2004.

### **5.4 CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME:**

A total number of 97 schemes through 21 sectors are implemented under Centrally Sponsored Schemes. For the Annual Plan 2003-04 an amount of Rs.9.71 crore has been spent under central share and Rs.3.20 crore under state share for various programmes. For the Annual Plan 2005-06 an amount of Rs.22.74 crore under central share and Rs.3.90 crore under state share has been proposed.

## **5.5 TSUNAMI**

### **5.5.1 Tsunami Disaster**

The series of earthquakes of unprecedented scale off the Indonesian Coast that occurred on Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2004 gave rise to killer tidal waves of Tsunami. The Tsunami waves hit the coasts of south India with such ferocity and suddenness that it has turned out to be the deadliest natural disaster in the recent history, bringing huge devastation of catastrophic proportions. Coastal fishing community and some of the poorest people living in the coastal regions have been the most affected, with huge loss of lives as well as extensive damage of boats and fishing gear and utter destruction of habitat and houses. Children and women were affected most adversely as they were the least able to resist and were dragged into watery graves. The killer waves smashed the coastal hamlets of Pondicherry also which made 30,000 people homeless. The death toll in Pondicherry and Karaikal was 107 and 492 respectively. 579 persons have been injured and totally 70,000 persons were evacuated. The standing crop in 792 hectares of agricultural land has been damaged and 10,061 houses have been destroyed, apart from the Government buildings like Schools and Anganwadies. Damages to nearly 6,703 fishing crafts handicapped the fishermen in leading their normal life.

### **5.5.2 Relief Measures**

During unprecedented tsunami disaster that caused havoc in the coastal villages of Pondicherry and Karaikal regions on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2004, the Revenue Department, Fisheries Department, Police Department, Public Works Department, Electricity Department, Local Bodies, Fire Services, Education Department etc., plunged into action to provide relief assistance and to rehabilitate the affected persons. Immediate relief measures were undertaken by the Government and essential items like food, water, rice, kerosene, clothing and utensil were given to the affected families. As an immediate step, 26 relief camps in Pondicherry region and 22 relief camps in Karaikal region were

opened which catered to the relief of about 30,000 victims during the its peak period of devastation. More than 6 lakhs food packets were distributed. The devastation not only stunned the people but also resulted in psychological and mental distress.

### **5.5.3 Disaster Management**

Pondicherry has been identified as seismic-prone area. The recent tsunami disaster has also awakened this Government to realize the necessity of creating a separate Department to deal with any sort of natural calamities and to take consequential relief and rehabilitation measures. Though the Government of India has advised to create a separate Department viz., "Department of Disaster Management", in view of smallness of the area of Pondicherry Union territory, it has been proposed to rename the existing Revenue Department as the "Department of Revenue and Disaster Management" and to set up a separate wing for "Disaster Management" within the department. For the purpose to man the wing, requisite posts will also be created.

To tackle the emergency situations, the Government of India emphasized on the setting up of State Level / District Level "Emergency Operations Centre" to monitor hazard, disseminate accurate warning and co-ordinate response when the disaster strikes. Hence, it has been proposed to establish "Emergency Operations Centre" at Pondicherry to act as a prime resource for emergency response in the event of any disaster and to guide and control relief operations in Disaster Management.

### **5.5.4 Financial Assistance**

Planning Commission allowed one time Central Assistance of Rs.100 crore for reconstruction works in the Tsunami affected coastal villages in the Annual Plan 2005-06.