

## CHAPTER - II

### **GOOD GOVERNANCE AND REFORMS**

The UT is doing well in the field of Health and Education due to continued support from the Planning Commission. More than 50% of plan allocations in this UT are spent for social services sector, which includes Education, Health, Housing, Urban Development, Water Supply, Labour and other Welfare Programmes as it is strongly felt that investment in social services sector would pay rich dividend in the long run. It is ensured that each and every child born in this territory is covered under immunization programme. UT of Puducherry is one among few states providing excellent health care and marching towards "Health for all" by 2010. It is also ensured that all students continue their education atleast upto 10th standard without any break. As a result the literacy rate was above 80% as per 2001 census against the national average of 65.35%. It is our aim is to become 100% literate state by 2010.

Action has been initiated to implement rainwater-harvesting programme, which includes construction of bed dams percolation ponds etc. to increase the ground water table in this territory. A scheme is implemented providing financial assistance to economically poor students to pursue higher education in the field of Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Agriculture and Education who have been selected for admission through Centralized Admission Committee set up by Government of Pondicherry.

Number of welfare programmes are implemented in the UT for the benefit of various sections of the society, which includes SCs, minorities, handloom weavers, fishermen, and students belonging to BPL families, construction workers and agricultural labourers.

#### **2.1 Some of the sectoral initiatives under Good Governance / Reforms are listed below :-**

##### **2.1.1 Agriculture**

A demand driven extension approach through Uzhavar Udhaviyagams had been introduced in our Union Territory. Apart from rationalizing the issue of agriculture inputs through these centers, propagation of cost reduction technologies and weather forecast are being done. A separate website entitled "Agrinet" has been hosted in the local language for the use of farmers, traders etc. It gives an insight into the latest developments in agriculture and technologies to be adopted by the farmers for better agricultural yield.

Ponds available in Pondicherry are being desilted for rain water harvesting in a phased manner. Recharge tubewells are constructed in all the desilted ponds to increase artificial recharge of the sub-surface aquifers. Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting Structures are being constructed in Government buildings. Assistance for construction of Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting Structure is being given to industries and private institutions.

Under the Development of Horticulture Crops, financial assistance is given for establishing medicinal plants processing industries, development of infrastructure like buildings, purchase of refrigeratory van, cold storage structure etc. and establishing hi-tech green house and horticulture industries.

### **2.1.2 Seed Certification Agency**

The productivity led growth in Agriculture is based on the application of advanced technology, which in turn is dependent on cultivators' access to the seed of desired genetic composition and adequate purity. The certified seeds assure the buyer of the genetic identity and characteristic of the seed being purchased. A separate Seed Certification Agency has since been established for the Union Territory of Pondicherry which has started functioning from 2001-2002 onwards. The Department has a fully equipped Seed Testing Laboratory notified under Seeds Act, and 5 seed processing units with adequate capacity. The availability of Certified Seeds has gradually increased from 550 MT in 1998-99 to 967 MT in 2005-2006 increasing the seed replacement rate from 47.6% to 70% in respect of Paddy. The Department of Agriculture is taking steps to promote organic farming in the U.T. At present 100 hect. is covered under organic farming under non-certification.

At present four nos. of Regulated Markets and three nos. of sub-yards are functioning in this U.T. to cater the needs of the farmers for selling their produces at remunerative price. Apart from this, four nos. of Uzhavar Sandhais are also functioning to cater the needs of vegetable producers and consumer public. Group Insurance Scheme for agricultural labourers had been introduced for the first time in the country.

### **2.1.3 Fisheries**

- Implementation of reimbursement of full sales tax paid by fishermen for procurement of HSD oil used by mechanised fishing boats / crafts.
- Supply of life saving appliances to active fishermen at free of cost.

## Integrated Fish Finder And Navigational Guidance Systems (IFFNGS)

A device called "Integrated Fish Finder and Navigational Guidance System" specially designed for finding the availability of rich fishing grounds and directions by the fishermen who venture into the sea for fishing. This equipment fitted in the fishing vessel would be helpful to fishermen to identify and reach the rich fishing grounds in a shortest route by saving enormous fuel consumption, time consumption etc., besides knowing the exact location and direction while in sea.

The department of ocean development Govt. of India had supplied the machineries for shore to vessel communication system alongwith 125 sets of Walkie Talkie to this department at free of cost. The machineries were erected at Fishing Harbour of Thengaithittu. During July 2005 through National Institute of Ocean Development, Chennai so as to make the system for communication from shore to vessel & vessel to shore. The fishermen is with Walkie Talkie to make use of the communication facilities at the time of adverse season.

### 2.1.4 Nutrition

The X and XII Std. Public Examinations are the most vital and important Examinations in the students career and it is a turning point in their life. The successful outcome of these Examinations alone guides their future in a right path. Hence, in order to prepare them for these crucial Public Examination, special classes have to be conducted in each and every school beyond school hours. These students may also be taught to develop a habit of staying in the school for reading beyond school hours. This will definitely improve the pass percentage in the X std. as well as XII Std. Public Examinations for which a new scheme "Provision of nutritious food to the students of X and XII Std. in the evening" may be introduced during the XI Five Year Plan as an incentive to the students to attend special classes beyond school hours. Further the provision of nutritious food in the form of Bread / Boiled Egg / Fruits to the above students in addition to hot-milk 150 ml. provided under evening milk scheme may perhaps make them more energetic to study beyond school hours. This will also make all the Head of Institutions of High school/ Higher Secondary Schools to conduct special classes compulsorily in all school working days beyond school hours by utilizing the services of teachers on rotation basis to prepare the students for the Public Examination. This scheme may not only eradicate their hunger but also make the students to study extra hours in the school, which undoubtedly increase the pass percentage in the Public Examination and also guide the students for a better and prosperous future.

### 2.1.5 Health

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| ▪ Family Planning methods Awareness                           | : 100.0 % |
| ▪ Antenatal check (3 or more) of Pregnant Women               | : 99.8 %  |
| ▪ Immunisation Coverage of children (BCG, DPT, Polio-3 doses) | : 98.9%   |
| ▪ AIDS awareness (urban & rural) in females                   | : 97.6 %  |

- Health Card is an unique concept introduced by the Government of Puducherry. The Health Card is a comprehensive record of health status of an individual. The Health Card enables the citizen to have priority treatment in outpatient department as well as inpatient treatment. Health Card is used during diabetic and hypertension clinics conducted in the Health Centres. It is also used while giving treatment to dog bite cases i.e., for Anti Rabies Therapy.

### **2.1.6 Revenue**

#### **Permanent Caste Certificate**

In order to reduce the difficulty faced by the students community for getting caste certificates, Permanent Caste Certificate are issued to the SC candidates for all purposes and to the OBC candidates for educational purpose. Presently Permanent Caste Certificates are issued in Villianur and Oulgaret Taluks of Puducherry Region. This will be rolled out to other Taluks in a phased manner.

#### **Exemption of Stamp Duty to the Woman Claimants**

As a part of Woman Empowerment Programme, Women purchasers have been exempted from payment of 50% Stamp Duty (including Transfer duty) in respect of registration of documents in their name, vide Notification No.8834/Rev-C3/2004 dated 17-12-2004. In view of stamp duty exemption given to women purchaser, registration of properties in favour of Women has considerably increased which compared to past years.

### **2.2 The functioning of Motor Vehicle Driving Training Institute in Puducherry & Karaikal**

The Government Automobile Workshop at Puducherry and Karaikal are running Motor Vehicle Driving Training Institutes to the unemployed youths in Light Motor Vehicle and Heavy Motor Vehicle. A fee of Rs.900/- per trainee is charged for the course. The fee for SC candidates is Rs.600/- per trainee. The duration of the course is two months. There is appreciation among the youths and large number of them enrolled in the Institute to undergo Driving Training. So far this institute has successfully trained 2800 youths in driving Motor Vehicles since its inception in 1979.

### **2.3 Pondicherry Pudumai Handicrafts Artisans Co-Operative Society**

The Pondicherry Pudumai Handicrafts Artisans Co-operative Society Ltd., P-652 (PUDUMAI) was registered in the year 1997 under the Co-operative society Act and started its functioning from March 1998. The Society has its Sales Emporium in the Beach Road (Opp. to Gandhi Statue). The society is formed by the Handicraft Artisans of the Puducherry region. As on date, 200 Handicrafts Artisans have been enrolled as members in the society.

The objective of the society is to develop and to promote the local handicrafts artisans and improve their life standards, besides improving the quality of the products produced by the Artisans.

## **2.4 Solid Waste Management through Self Help Groups**

The urban local bodies embarked upon the screening of privatization in the year 1997. Subsequently, the concept of involving Self Help Groups and Solid Waste Management emerged thus achieving of the twin objection of creating of employment opportunities while keeping the city clean. Accordingly, Self-Help Groups formed under the Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme namely SJSRY were started to be involved in the Solid Waste Management. At present, 39 Nos. of Self- Help Groups are engaged in the Solid Waste Management in Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipalities. The Municipality enters into agreement with Self- Help Groups on annual contract basis with good terms and conditions. The members of Self-Help Groups engaged for Solid Waste Management are provided with Uniforms and Safety Equipments by the President of Self-Help Groups. The profit margin of 8.50% is allowed to the Self-Help Groups in the Solid Waste Management. The Municipalities take the responsibilities of providing inputs to the Self-Help Groups engaged their members of the groups under Solid Waste Management and they also engaged a vehicle to transport the garbage collection. And in an innovative way, the Suddham project managed by the Self-Help Groups collected garbages in a segregated manner and transported them and by composite lot by a non-polluted battery operated vehicle which is also manned by the Self- Help Groups. The Vermi-Composite Yard situated at Duprayapet is managed by a separate Self-Help Groups, who process the garbages collection and manufacture Vermi-Composite out of the wastes which being marketed through PASIC. The Self-Help Groups are also engaged in the Solid Waste Management amount the collection in tourist spots including Beach, Bharathi Park and Bus Stand.

## **2.5 District Planning Committee**

The Article 243 Z D of the Constitution of India provides for the Constitution of District Planning Committee to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the District and to prepare a draft District Plan as a rule. In tune with the constitution provisions, this administration enacted the Pondicherry District Planning Committee Act in the year 1994. When the act was enacted, the whole Union Territory of Pondicherry was considered as single District. And the strength of the Committee was also not indicated in the Act. Moreover, elections were not held to the local bodies till May, 2006, the District Planning Committee could not be constituted.

It is stated in this connection that the Union Territory of Puducherry has been divided into two Revenue Districts namely, Puducherry and Karaikal Districts. And as the strength of the Committee needed to be specified the existing act was amended. Accordingly, necessary amendments have been brought out in the Act.

As the amendments were made only in the month of December 2006, and required execution to be held for members of the two committees from amongst the local bodies elected representatives. However, in order to ensure that the felt needs of the people are reflected in the plans, the Gram Sabha Plans were prepared by the Village Panchayats which was placed before the Commune Panchayats, Councils the intermediate level of Panchayats and after elaborate discussions, it was consolidated and sent to this Department for / compilation. Similarly, the proposals for the plan were prepared by the Councils in the urban areas, which was considered by the Municipal Councils and duly forwarded to this Department for consolidation. Thus, draft proposals for the 5 Year Plan have been prepared by consolidating the proposals sent by the elected local bodies. Annual Plans for 2008-09 and future will be processed through District Planning Committees.