

I. Introduction

Demographic Profile

The Territory of Puducherry was merged with the Indian Union with effect from 01.11.1954 in accordance with the de-facto agreement between the Government of India and the Government of France, signed on 21.10.1954. De-jure transfer took place on 16th August 1962. The Union Territory of Puducherry is administered under the provisions of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963. This Union Territory consists of four regions, namely, Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, lying geographically separated from one another. Pondicherry region which is on the east coast is about 162 kms, south of Chennai and the largest of these and consists of 12 scattered areas interspersed with enclaves of Villupuram and Cuddalore Districts of Tamil Nadu. Karaikal region is about 135 kms. south of Pondicherry and surrounded by Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu. Yanam region is located about 840 kms. northeast of Pondicherry, near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. Mahe region lies almost parallel to Pondicherry, 653 kms. away on the west coast, near Tellicherry in Kerala.

The Union Territory is 480 Sq. kms. in area and has a population of 9,74,345 as per 2001 census. The region-wise break-up is as follows:

Table-1

| Region | Area (Sq. Kms.) | Population | Male | Female | Literacy Rate |
|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Pondicherry | 290 | 7,35,332 | 3,69,428 | 3,65,904 | 80.70 |
| Karaikal | 161 | 1,70,791 | 84,487 | 86,304 | 81.90 |
| Mahe | 9 | 36,828 | 17,153 | 19,675 | 95.70 |
| Yanam | 20 | 31,394 | 15,893 | 15,501 | 73.70 |
| Total | 480 | 9,74,345 | 4,86,961 | 4,87,384 | 81.24 |

In the Union Territory of Puducherry, the percentage of population in urban areas is much higher than the population in rural areas. The entire Mahe and Yanam regions have been classified as urban. 66% of the Union Territory is classified as urban, as against the All India level of 25.7%.

Development Administration

The Union Territory of Puducherry constitutes two districts namely, Pondicherry and Karaikal consisting of 264 census villages, 129 revenue villages, 6 taluks (4 in Pondicherry, 2 in Karaikal) and 2 sub-taluks (Mahe & Yanam). For the purpose of Development administration, the Territory is divided into six blocks namely (i) Ariankuppam block (ii) Oulgaret block (iii) Villianur block (iv) Karaikal block (v) Mahe block and (vi) Yanam block consisting of 47 circles of village level units. Pondicherry Panchayats Act of 1973 & Municipalities Act of 1973 came into force in 1974.

There are 5 municipalities, namely Pondicherry, Oulgaret, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam and 10 Commune Panchayats, namely, (i) Villianur (ii) Mannadipet (iii) Ariyankuppam (iv) Bahour (v) Nettapakkam (vi) Thirunallar (vii) Neravy (viii) Nedungadu (ix) Kottoucherry and (x) T.R. Pattinam. Election to Panchayatraj Institutions was held in June and July, 2006.

Selected Socio-Economic Indicators :

Table-2

| Sl. No. | Item | Unit | UT of Puducherry |
|---------|---|----------------|------------------|
| 1 | Area | Sq. km | 480 |
| 2 | Districts | Nos. | 2 |
| 3 | Population (2001) | Lakhs | 9.74 |
| 4 | Decadal growth (1991-2000) | Percentage | 20.62 |
| 5 | Birth rate | Per '000 | 15.7 |
| 6 | Death rate | Per '000 | 7.3 |
| 7 | Infant Mortality Rate | Per '000 | 28.0 |
| 8 | Sex ratio | Per '000 males | 1001 |
| 9 | Population density | Per sq. km | 2034 |
| 10 | Per capita income at 2007-08 current prices | in Rs. | 63,524 |
| 11 | Population below poverty (2004-05 PC Estimate) | % | 21.7 |
| 12 | Literacy rate (2001) | % | 81.24 |
| 13 | Per capita consumption of electricity (2007-08) | in Units | 2306.23 |

| Sl. No. | Item | Unit | UT of Puducherry |
|---------|----------------------|-------|------------------|
| 14 | Teacher-Pupil Ratio | | |
| | a) Primary Schools | Ratio | 1 : 21 |
| | b) Upper Primary | Ratio | 1 : 21 |
| | c) Secondary Schools | Ratio | 1 : 25 |
| 15 | Bed Population Ratio | Ratio | 1 : 433 |
| 16 | HDI (2001) | | 0.571 |

GSDP and Per-capita Income

Table-3
GSDP and Per Capita Income

| Sl. No. | Year | At Current Prices | |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | | GSDP (Rs. in Crores) | Per capita Income (in Rs.) |
| 1. | 2002-03 | 5031.25 | 45431 |
| 2. | 2003-04 | 5438.17 | 47778 |
| 3. | 2004-05 | 5184.74 | 43303 |
| 4. | 2005-06 | 6213.24 | 50900 |
| 5. | 2006-07 (P) | 7193.65 | 57596 |
| 6. | 2007-08 (QE) | 8128.84 | 63524 |
| 7. | 2008-09 (AE) | 9104.30 | 81057 |

The Union Territory of Puducherry has a GSDP of Rs.5,031.25 crores in 2002-03 which increased to Rs.7,193.65 crores in 2006-07 and further to Rs.9,104.30 crores in 2008-09 registering an average annual growth rate of 13.49%. The percapita income has increased from Rs.45,431/- in 2002-03 to Rs.81,057/- in 2008-09 registering an average annual growth rate of 13.07%. This shows that the UT of Puducherry is dynamic in nature and boasts of high growth both in terms of GSDP and percapita income.

Outlay and Expenditure under Plan since Inception

During the First Plan and Second Plan the Territory was under the transitional stage politically. However the Territory was covered by development Planning in the penultimate year of the First Five Year Plan. The development expenditure incurred since 1954-55 under plan is given below :-

Table-4

(Rs. lakh)

| Plan | Period | Outlay | Expenditure to Outlay | % of Expenditure |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| First Plan | 1951-1956 | 73.96 | 50.30 | 68.01 |
| Second Plan | 1956-1961 | 476.50 | 339.27 | 71.20 |
| Third Plan | 1961-1966 | 692.73 | 603.27 | 87.09 |
| Annual Plans | 1966-1969 | 671.73 | 525.57 | 78.24 |
| Fourth Plan | 1969-1974 | 1454.00 | 1436.04 | 98.76 |
| Fifth Plan | 1974-1978 | 2536.09 | 2465.69 | 97.22 |
| Annual Plan | 1978-1979 | 1050.00 | 990.42 | 94.33 |
| Annual Plan | 1979-1980 | 1141.24 | 1085.45 | 95.95 |
| Sixth Plan | 1980-1985 | 10078.41 | 9896.77 | 98.20 |
| Seventh Plan | 1985-1990 | 23385.00 | 23255.82 | 99.45 |
| Annual Plan | 1990-1991 | 6585.00 | 6567.70 | 99.74 |
| Annual Plan | 1991-1992 | 8228.00 | 8179.00 | 99.41 |
| Eighth Plan | 1992-1997 | 70918.00 | 69871.23 | 98.52 |
| Ninth Plan | 1997-2002 | 145612.00 | 144804.90 | 99.45 |
| Tenth Plan | 2002-2007 | 346413.00 | 344630.82 | 99.49 |
| Eleventh Plan | 2007-2012 | 1078700.00 | | |
| Annual Pan | 2007-2008 | 109010.00 | 108672.53 | 99.69 |
| Annual Plan (BE) | 2008-2009 | 175000.00 # | | |
| Proposed Revised Annual Plan (RE) | 2008-2009 | 107730.00 | | |

Includes Rs.110 crore for Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme under World Bank Assistance (EAP) and Rs.691.79 crore by way of Negotiated Loan.

From the above, we can see that the outlay allocated by Government of India is spent to the extent of 98% and above consistently from 6th Five Year Plan onwards.