CHAPTER V

OLD AGE AND OTHER SCHEMES
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Social security is a program of protection provided by social legislation against sickness, unemployment, death of wage-earner, old age or disability, and accidents – contingencies against which the individual cannot be expected to protect himself.¹

The aim of the scheme is to give social security to old aged persons and other categories of individuals such as Destitutes, differently abled persons, Destitute Widows, Destitute Agricultural Labourers, Destitute / deserted wives, and Unmarried, poor, incapacitated women of age 50 years and above.² Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said: coming to Madras from time to time I get the impression of a State that is advancing on many fronts that is alive which is dynamic and changing and it is a pleasant impression in Madras was the originator of Mid-day meals and school improvement schemes – Old age pension scheme is proving popular.³

Old Age Homes

Now a day, due to the drastic changes in the population structure; increase in life expectancy; family circumstances and behaviour, the joint family system has disintegrated very much. The aged people are therefore being neglected in many families and thereby deserted. There are a huge number of deserted and destitute aged

people living in the poor families and suffering for want of food, accommodation etc. in their day today lives. In many families aged senior citizens who require proper care and protection are treated as a burden by the young ones and neglected

The growing importance of the problems faced by older persons, the Government has formulated a "State Policy for the Aged" to secure a life of dignity and respect for our senior citizens. Voluntary Organisations were encouraged to implement non-institutionalized services for the aged. In order to provide specialized health care to senior citizens living below the poverty line, this Government proposes to introduce a “Health Card” to enable them to have access to quality medical facilities in super-specialty Government hospitals. Special attentions were paid to the welfare of the other vulnerable sections of the society. The Government encouraged the private sector to set up orphanages, homes for the aged, disabled, destitute and night shelters for street children and would consider providing land free of cost to those who come forward to take up this scheme on a non-profit basis. These organisations are frequently inspected by officials. It is therefore proposed to educate the young ones, through training on Geriatric care.4

The objective of the scheme is to provide physical, social and psychological support to the aged, who are in the age group of 60 years and above. Food, shelter, medical facilities, care and protection are given to the older persons, under this scheme. The destitute older persons who are aged 60 years and above and, below poverty line are eligible to benefit under this scheme. Often Old persons hailing from poor families and old age persons who are destitute do suffer due to non-availability

of proper food and shelter. Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 has come into force in Tamil Nadu with effect from 29.9.2008. According to 2001 census, the elderly population was 55.07 lakhs out of the total population.

Old Age Pension (Normal) Scheme

The Government of Madras implemented the old age pension scheme. It came into effect from April 1, 1962. This scheme provided for a pension of Rs. 20/- per month to destitutes 65 years of age and over and to destitutes 60 years of age and over who are incapacitated to earn a living due to blindness, leprosy, insanity, paralysis or loss of limb. A person will be considered a destitute if he is without any income or source of income and has no relatives of 20 years of age and over of the following categories son, son’s son and husband/wife.

The beneficiaries of the scheme should not have any source of income. Should not be professional beggars. Should not possess property of value more than Rs.5000/-. The National Old Age Pension scheme has been renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme and launched on 19.11.2007. As per the new scheme, pension will be granted to persons who are 65 years of age and above belonging to households Below Poverty Line.

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Enhancement of Pension to Old Age Pensioners

The Government has provided Social Security to the destitute aged persons by introduced the Old Age Pension w.e.f. 1-4-1962. An amount of Rs. 20/- per month had been paid to the Old Age Pension beneficiaries since the inception of the scheme till 31st March 1979.\(^\text{10}\)

The government after considering the hardship of the pensioners had increased the pension amount of Rs. 20/- per month to Rs. 25/-p.m. w.e.f. 1-4-1979\(^\text{11}\) and from Rs. 25/- per month to Rs. 35/- per month w.e.f. 1-4-1982.\(^\text{12}\) The pension amount was increased to Rs. 50/- per month w.e.f. 1-5-1989.\(^\text{13}\) The pension was increased to Rs. 75/- per month w.e.f. February 1992.\(^\text{14}\) The pension amount was increased to Rs. 100/- per month w.e.f. 1-7-1995.\(^\text{15}\) The pension was increased to Rs. 150/- per month w.e.f. 1-4-1998.\(^\text{16}\) The pension amount was increased to Rs. 200/- per month w.e.f. 1-4-2000.\(^\text{17}\)

The Government decided to increase the Old Age Pension amount from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 400/- per month to all categories of Old Age Pensioners viz. Old Aged Persons, Physically handicapped destitute, destitute widows, destitute Agricultural Labourers and deserted wives w.e.f. 1-8-2006, taking into consideration the increase of


\(^{15}\) GO. Ms. No. 187, SWANMP dept., dt. 4-7-1995.

\(^{16}\) G.O. Ms. No. 67, SWANMP Dept., dt. 21-4-1998.

\(^{17}\) G.O. Ms. No. 86, SWANMP Dept., dt. 2-6-2000.
prices over time. The Government directed the Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration to issue necessary instructions to all collectors, to ensure that the Old Age Pension amount is disbursed to the beneficiaries at the enhanced rate promptly every month without any delay. 18

Other benefits given to old age pensioners

From 1979, twice in a year on the occasions of Pongal and Independence day the Old Age Pensioners were supplied with one Handloom dhoti for each male and one handloom saree for each female at free of cost. 19 From 1992-93 onwards, instead of issuing free sarees and dhoties to Old Age Pensioners for Independence Day and Pongal, the sarees and dhoties are being issued during Pongal and Deepavali festival at free of cost. 20 The Government have ordered for free supply of one kilogram of free rice per week for all Old Age Pensioners free of cost with effect from 1.11.1980. 21 All the Old Age Pensioners are supplied daily with Mid-day Nutritious Meal in Nutritious Meal Centres from 15-1.1983. 22 The Government have also permitted all the Old Age Pension beneficiaries to draw rice free of cost as per the scale indicated below with effect from 15.9.1991. 23

i) Free supply of one Kg. of fine variety of rice per week per head for those who are not taking meals in the Nutritious Meal Programme Centres.


ii) Free supply of 1/2 Kg of fine variety 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. Accordingly, the Old Age Pensioners who take meals in the Nutritious Meal Programme Centres get free supply of two kilograms of rice per month and those who do not take meals get free supply of 4 kilograms of rice.\textsuperscript{24}

**Destitute/Deserted Wives Pension Scheme**

The scheme of Old Age Pension has been extended to benefit deserted wives from 25-4-1986, who were not less than 30 years of age, deserted by their husbands for a period of not less than five years or obtained legal separation certificate from competent courts of law. Deserted wives having legal heirs who have completed 18 years of age are also eligible based on merit for pension under this scheme. Other conditions for availing benefit under this scheme are, a person should not have any source of income, should not own property valued above Rs.5000/- and should not be a professional beggar. Other conditions applicable to Old Age Pension (normal) scheme apply to this scheme also.\textsuperscript{25}

**Destitute Widows Pension Scheme**

The Government have extended the scheme of Old Age Pension to the Destitute Widows. There is no age limit for this scheme. The Destitute widows who have not remarried and who are having legal heirs of 18 years of age and above are also eligible for pension under this scheme. The other conditions under this scheme are the same as those applicable in the case of Old Age Pension (Normal) Scheme.


**Destitute/Agricultural Labourers Pension Scheme**

This scheme was introduced from 15-3-1981. The Government have extended the scheme of Old Age Pension to the Destitute Agricultural Labourers. Under this scheme, the minimum age is fixed as 60. Other conditions for availing benefit under this scheme are, a person should not have any source of income, should not own property valued above Rs.5000/-, should not be a professional beggar and should not be supported by son or son’s son aged 20 years or above. The conditions under the scheme are the same as those applicable in the case of Old Age Pension (Normal) scheme.²⁶

**Pension to Un-married, Poor, incapacitated Women**

The Government have introduced a new Scheme of providing monthly Pension to unmarried, poor, incapacitated women of age 50 years and above from 1-7-2008. Rs. 400/- per month has been provided to the beneficiaries under this scheme as pension on par with the beneficiaries of Destitute Widows Pension and Deserted and Destitute Wives Pension Schemes. Other conditions applicable to Destitute Widows Pension and Deserted and Destitute Wives Pension Schemes apply to this scheme also.²⁷

**Destitute Physically Handicapped Pension Scheme**

This scheme was introduced on 1-11-1974. Under this scheme, Physically handicapped destitute persons, whose disability is 50 percent or more are eligible for


the pension. The age limit prescribed is 45 years. The Government have constituted a District Level Committee in each district with the Collectors, District Medical Officers and District Social Welfare Officers. As the Members to examine the applications received from physically handicapped persons and sanction pension to them considering the individual hardship without reference to age rules. issued orders extending the scheme to leprosy patients also. Other conditions for availing benefit under this scheme are, a person should not have any source of income, should not own property valued above Rs.5000/-, should not be a professional beggar and should not be supported by son or son’s son aged 20 years or above.

### Statistical data of the Pensioners

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<td>94092</td>
<td>103010</td>
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<td>Pensions to unmarried, poor incapacitated women of age 50 years and above</td>
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<td>8537</td>
<td>11860</td>
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Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, SWANMP Dept., Performance Budget 2010-11.

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Statistical Data of the expenditure to the old age pensioners – cash, dhoties sarees and free rice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pension (in lakhs)</th>
<th>Dhoties &amp; Sarees (in lakhs)</th>
<th>Rice (in lakhs)</th>
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<td>2009-10</td>
<td>26306.97</td>
<td>1249.13</td>
<td>921.73</td>
<td>28477.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, SWANMP Dept., Performance Budget 2010-11.

Grant In Aid to Voluntary Institutions for Old Age Homes

The voluntary institutions also permitted to run old age homes for the benefit of the elders. The old age homes run by voluntary institutions with the grant in aid by the Government were commenced from 1991-1992 with the aim to provide food, shelter, care and protection to the elders in the families below the poverty line and destitute older persons. The eligible for the voluntary institutions is that it should have been registered under Societies Registration Act, and old age persons maintained by the institutions should be in the age group of 60+ yeas. The quantum of assistance is Rs. 500/- per month per head (including institution share). Totally 29 institutions are running the old age homes in State.\(^{30}\) The total expenditure from 2001-2010 are as follows:

Statistical Data of the expenditure to the old age pensioners – cash, dhoties sarees and free rice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Expenditure (in lakhs)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Expected</td>
<td>Utilised</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
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<td>2003-04</td>
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<td>2007-08</td>
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<td>969</td>
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<td>885</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>1035</td>
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</table>

Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, SWANMP Dept., Performance Budget 2010-2011

Sathyavanimuthu Ammaiyr Ninaivu Free Supply of Sewing Machines Scheme

Sathyavanimuthu was born on 15-2-1923. She began her political career as a member of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) from 1949 and later started her own party Thazhpathtoor Munnetra Kazhagam and then joined the Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. In 1953 she was arrested for leading the DMK’s protest against Kula Kalvi thittam. She served as editor of the magazine ‘annai’. She won the assembly seats during 1957, 1967 and 1971 elections from Perambur constituency and lost the assembly seats in 1962 and 1984 from Perambur and during 1977 from Ulundurpet constituencies. She was the minister for Harijan welfare and Information during C.N. Annadurai’s regime in Tamil Nadu from 1967 to 1969. She also served

32. The Hindu, 5th May 1974, Chennai.
33. The Hindu, 13 January 2000, Chennai.
34. Thirunavukkarasu, Ka., op. cit., p. 176.
as a Harijan Welfare Minister in M.Karunanithi administration till 1974.36 She served as a Rajya Sabha Member as an ADMK representative from 3-4-1978 to 2 April 1984 also served as Central Minister in Charan Singh administration in 1979.37

The free supply of sewing machine scheme was commenced from 1979-1980 with the objective of the rehabilitation of destitute widows, deserted wives, socially handicapped women and physically handicapped men and women and they should be in the age group of 20 to 40 years with a view to increase their self employment, potential and to help them lead a decent life. But they should know tailoring.38

**Statistical Data of the beneficiaries and expenditure under this scheme.**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Expenditure (in lakhs)</th>
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<td>5500</td>
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Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, SWANMP Dept., Performance Budget 2010-2011.

**National Family Benefit Scheme**

The scheme has been implemented from 2.10.95 onwards. Under the scheme, a sum of Rs.10,000/- is sanctioned as grant from the Central Government to the


households below the poverty line on the death of the primary bread winner either due to accident or normal circumstances. The beneficiaries come under the Tamil Nadu Distress Relief Scheme and the Tamil Nadu Accident Relief Scheme. Under the Tamil Nadu Accident Relief Scheme, a sum of Rs. 15,000/- is given as relief amount. Out of Rs. 15,000/- the Central share is Rs. 10,000/- and the State's share is Rs. 5,000/-. From 2002-2003 the National Family Benefit Scheme is transferred from the Government of India to the State Plan.  

**Statistical Data of the beneficiaries and expenditure under this scheme.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Sanctioned (in Lakhs)</th>
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<td>2009-10</td>
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<td>0.62</td>
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Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, SWANMP Dept., Performance Budget 2010-2011.

**Annapurana Scheme**

Under Annapurana Scheme, foodgrains are distributed to the destitutes/Senior Citizens covered under National Old Age Pension Scheme. The beneficiaries are supplied 10 kgs. of rice per month free of cost under the scheme. The Government of India has fixed as 71974 person among the National Old Pension Scheme beneficiaries in Tamilnadu. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection is appointed as Nodal Officer for the implementation of this scheme. The  

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beneficiaries for this scheme are selected by the District Collectors.

“ANNAPURANA” Ration cards are different in colour from other ration cards with the identification mark “Annapurna” are printed by the Collectors and issued to the beneficiaries for supply of 10 kgs of rice free of cost through Public Distribution System shops. Funds for this scheme are released by Government of India every year and sub-allocated to the District Collectors by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection.

**Statistical Data of the beneficiaries and expenditure under this scheme.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, SWANMP Dept., Performance Budget 2010-2011.

**Distress Relief Scheme**

The main aim of this scheme is to support a family below the poverty line on the natural death of the primary winner. Till 2001-2002, the Government of India paid Rs. 10000/- per head to the households and from 2002-2003 this scheme was transferred to State Plan as additional Central Assistance.\(^\text{40}\)

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Statistical Data of the beneficiaries and expenditure under this scheme.

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Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, SWANMP Dept., Performance Budget 2010-2011.

ACCIDENT RELIEF SCHEME

The aim of this scheme is to give the households below poverty line on the death of the primary bread winner due to accident. The relief amount totaling Rs. 15000/- of which Rs. 5000/- is borne by the State and the Central share is Rs. 10000/-. From the year 2002-2003 onwards this scheme was transferred to state Plan as additional central assistance.  

Statistical Data of the beneficiaries and expenditure under this scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Central Share (in Lakhs)</th>
<th>Total Expenditure (in Lakhs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>39.77</td>
<td>73.20</td>
<td>112.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>160.00</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>162.20</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>162.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
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<td>160.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
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<td>122.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>133.34</td>
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<td>133.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>64.65</td>
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<tr>
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<td>64.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>46.50</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>46.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, SWANMP Dept., Performance Budget 2010-2011.

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**Tsunami Affected Persons**

Tsunami disaster which was struck in Tamil Nadu on 26-12-2004 consequent on the heavy earthquake at Sumathra Islands, large number of women have lost their husbands who were the sole breadwinners of their families. Many of them have lost their family support and many others have been left destitute. There was an emergent need to sanction pension to all those left destitute by this sudden calamity so as to enable them to resume their normal lives. The following schemes are in operation by Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department;

1. Old Age Pension (Normal) scheme
2. Destitute Physically Handicapped Pension Scheme
3. Destitute Widows Pension Scheme
4. Destitute Agricultural Labourers Pension Scheme and
5. Destitute Deserted Wives Pension Scheme

The Government declared the following 13 coastal districts as Tsunami disaster affected for the purpose of relief and rehabilitation measures those in Thiruvallur, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore,Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuryam, Thoothurkudi, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari.\(^{42}\)

The Government directed that all destitutes in the Tsunami affected areas of the districts affected who are eligible for Old Age Pension as per the Old Age Pension Rules and destitute pension under the scheme shall be sanctioned pension immediately. Government further directed that this work should be done on war-

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\(^{42}\) G.O. Ms. No. 2, SWANMP (SW6) Dept., dt. 3-1-2005.
footing and should be completed within a week’s time from the date of issue of this order.43

**New Pension Schemes**

The Government of India have launched two new pension schemes on 19-2-2009 namely India Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and India Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS). Widows who are between 40-64 years of age belonging to below poverty line households are eligible under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme. Persons with severe or multiple disabilities with 80% between 18-64 years belonging to below poverty line households are eligible under the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme.

**Old Age Day**

1st October of every year is celebrated all over the world as International Day of Senior Citizens. During the year 2007-08, the State Government have celebrated International Day of Senior Citizens at the cost of Rs.5.50 lakhs. The Department is headed by a Director and assisted by one Joint Director, two Deputy Directors and one Assistant Director at Headquarter office besides other officers & staff. A Deputy Director heads a Regional Office at Madurai. As the Department is maintaining residential care institutions, there are 2558 employees for the management of the institutions including medical officers, psychologists, probation officers, teachers instructors and watch and wards.

Implementation of Beggar Rehabilitation Policy

D.M.K. Government had the outstanding achievement of being the first political party to have systematically tried to bring some order in the life of Beggars. Although the Madras prevention of Begging Act was passed as far back as 1945, and Begging was declared a punishable offense, vagrancy was still a common sight. The Congress Government had amended the Act to plug the loopholes in the Act. This Act empowered the police to arrest the Beggars. They could be sent to ‘Care Camps’ or ‘Care Homes’ and not to jails. The Congress government had also established two homes for beggars, one at melapakkam and the other at Kancheepuram. They were run by the police department and the expenditure for their maintenance was met from the public funds. ‘Dayasadan’ a Social Service Organization established a care home for the beggars with Government assistance.

The Corporation of Madras also maintained a home at Krishnampet and Leprosy affected beggars were taken in at Chingleput, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Madurai, Nagercoil and Chidambaram. The care homes were run with the collaboration of the Government and the Municipalities. The Inspector General of Police was controlling authority for the care homes at Chidambaram and the expenditure uncured by the Chidambaram Municipal Council was reimbursed from state funds. The D.M.K. Government appointed the A.V.P. Asaithambi Committee to examine the question of rehabilitation of beggars. The committee classified the beggars into three groups. The first group consisted of the able bodied beggars, the

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45. Tamil Nadu Administration Report, 1968-69, p.372
46. Ibid., p.564
second old and weak beggars, and the third group consisted of the diseased and juvenile beggars. The Committee cited “the loss of agricultural employment in the villages, family breakdown of quarrel among parents, desertion by husband, religions’ mendicancy, chronic and incurable diseases, sexual perversion etc., as the causes for beggary.

The A.V.P. Asaithambi Committee further reported that begging was more than a nuisance, and that it should be prohibited and penalized. Although Tamil Nadu happened to be the first in India to take steps to provide adequate legal measures to prevent begging, it had still not achieved its object to the fullest extent due to lack of sufficient for the strict enforcement of the Act. Further the Committee felt that prevention of begging was an immediate necessity. So the Committee advocated the rigorous enforcement of the provisions of the prevention of Begging Act, 1945. For this, the city needed sufficient number of work houses and care homes. The studies also revealed that the beggars were usually admonished and released due to lack of space. To solve this problem the committee recommended that in every district headquarters outside Municipal limits, care houses should be started. In the beginning a few homes were to be started at the regional headquarters loke Madras, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Salem, Tirunelveli and Vellore. The workhouses were also to be provided with the facilities for agriculture and also training cum production units in cottage industries like Binding, Carpentry, Weaving, Tailoring, Printing, Pottery, Blacksmithy, Match, Fibre Industries, Cane and Bamboo Industries, Basket

47. Tamil Arasu, 5 June 1971, p.10
48. Ibid., p.10.
making etc. to provide work for the inmates, suitable to their physical attributes and skills.\textsuperscript{49}

To implement the recommendation of the Committee, the Tamil Nadu Government decided to construct ten Beggars’ Rehabilitation Home for the beggars afflicted by Leprosy. To finance this project, money was collected by voluntary donations. The collection drive way started on the Chief Minister’s forty-eighth birthday, June 3, 1971, which amounted to RS.1,03,72,129.\textsuperscript{50}

The main objectives of the rehabilitation centres were to prevent begging, to care for beggars suffering from leprosy and show them a way to earn their living. This would teach them the importance of dignity of labour and self-reliance, when they could lead their lives independently without a burden on society. To fulfill these objectives Leprosy Beggars’ Rehabilitation centres were opened at (1) Paanur (Chengalpput District), (2) Ulundupet (South Arcot District), (3) Bargur (Dharmapuri District) (4) Pudukottai (Trichy District), (5) Manayeripatti (Thanjavur District), (7) Malavadi (North Arcot District), (8)Vinnapalli (Coimbatore District), (9) Devikurichi (Salem District), and (10) Selliampatti (Dharmapuri District).\textsuperscript{51}

Each home had an accommodation capacity of 400 adults and 25 children. If married and one of the spouses suffered from leprosy and took to begging, then the couple together would be admitted into the home. The children would be accommodated nearby hostels and schools. The couple admitted would be provided

\textsuperscript{49}. Tamil Arasu, June 5 1971, pp.11-12.

\textsuperscript{50}. Tamil Arasu, 16 February, 1972, pp.49-53.

\textsuperscript{51}. Tamil Arasu, July 1, 1974, p.10.
with free lodging, boarding, and clothing. Medical treatment and vocational training were given. For recreation the homes were provided with a radio and indoor games. Films would be screened twice a month. Newspapers and Magazines were also supplied.\textsuperscript{52}

The inmates were given good surgical and physiotherapy treatment. All the homes had operation theatres with the exception of Ulundurpet and Bargur. There were two Medical Officers, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists and paramedical staff. An occupational therapist was in charge of three or four centres.\textsuperscript{53}

After they were cured by medical and surgical treatment, the inmates would be either taught new skills, out of which they could earn a living or their existing skills would be polished. Some of the skills thought to be the cured inmates were farming, like poultry-keeping, weaving, tailoring, shoe making and carpentry. At Paranur, power looms were installed as an experimental measure. The inmates were taught to weave out art silk and art cloth, bandage and coarse cloth were also woven. The Swedish Red Cross Society set up a modern factory-cum-workshop at Paranur. The then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi inaugurated it on September 10, 1974. Table illustrates the location and strength of the various beggars’ Homes in the State of Tamil Nadu.

\textsuperscript{52} \textit{Tamil Arasu}, July 1, 1974, p.10

\textsuperscript{53} \textit{Ibid.}
After the dismissal of the D.M.K. government on January 31, 1976, this scheme was given up by the other tournaments. No steps were taken for eradication of begging rehabilitating the beggars. Even during the D.M.K. rule, number of the beggars taken into the beggars’ home ray away other places they preferred the lazy life of begging rather than earning their living. So this scheme did not prove to be a completely successful one.

Free Health Services for the Financially Underprivileged

Free Eye Camp Programs

The Programme of the eye camps was received in 1972. Originally it existed during the Congress rule but it was at effectively implemented and areas covered were very and finally ever before the end of the Congress rule.\textsuperscript{54} It was given up the D.M.K. received it and viewed to implement schemes a large scale the expenditure for

\textsuperscript{54} Tamil Arasu, April 1974, p.19
this programme expected to be one Crore per year. This was meted out contribution by the public.

This free eye camp commended in June 3, 1972, on the occasion of the celebration of the 49th birthday of the Chief Minister, K.Karunanidhi. The Chief Minster’s Eye Camp Fund was for the purpose of giving free eye treatment and spectacles to the needy.\textsuperscript{55} Initially the money collected from public donations amounted to Nine Lakhs of rupees. It was imposited in a special account opened in Reserve Bank of India, Madras. A sizeable contribution was made by M.A.M. Ramaswamy the then Sheriff of Madras; he donated 4.5 lakhs, the remaining Rs.4 lakhs was collected from the public which included the Chief Minister’s own contribution of Rs. 25,000. With further donations, the amount swelled to 4.25 lakhs.\textsuperscript{56}

Under this scheme, five mobile units were used, two in Madras and three at Madurai. Each mobile unit was allotted specified areas and each unit was expected to camp at two places every month. Each Mobile unit was provided with bus and two jeeps, and other medical paraphernalia worth about 4.1 lakh. The medical team consisted of a Head Surgeon, four assistant Surgeons, twenty nurses, one head nurse and a Medical attender. Every unit was expected to conduct at least five hundred operations in each camp.\textsuperscript{57} within a period of one year, ninety four eye camps have been conducted at a total cost of Rs.26 lakhs throughout the State. Under the free-eye camp scheme, a hospital was setup at C.S.S.W. Mill Marriage Hall at Coimbatore on

\textsuperscript{55} Tamil Arasu, June 16, 1972, p.7.

\textsuperscript{56} Ibid., p.9.

\textsuperscript{57} Tamil Arasu, op.cit., April 1974, p.19.
September 24, 1972 and this camp was continued for six months. At Trichy Government General Hospital, a free camp was organized from October 21, 1972. From the commencement till May 31 1973, a total of 2,93,653 patients were treated, about 44,681 cataract operations were performed, 43,260 spectacles were issued to the patients. A record was set at Khillakudi in Tiruchi district. 1,215 operations were conformed in single day due to the help rendered by the social unit of women’s association, Lions Club and the local college.  

As part of the programme, the Collector of Thanjavur, K.M. Nambiar formulated a detailed plan to cover content cataract patients in Tanjore district. Under the term initially about 250 basic workers were trained to green the cataract patients by door to door visit. These workers were to visit all the localities and identify the cataract patients. About 42,039 people were benefited till March 1974.

The Government proposed to conduct eye camps for a total period of five years. All the districts were to be covered in 1974-75 to monitor the working of this scheme an advisory committee was formed to administer and advise the government. The Committee was to be headed by the Minister of Health and the other members were Secretary of Health and Family Planning Department and Director of Medical Education. The Director of Health and Family planning was placed in overall charge of the eye camp while the Director of Medical Education was asked to render necessary assistance for conducting the camp. Dr. G. Venkatswamy, the Vice-

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58. Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol.LXII, No.16 Reply by the Social Welfare Minister to Question No.58 on 24.2.1975
60. Ibid., p.8.
Principal and Professor of ophthalmology, Madurai Medical College, Madurai headed one team. The other team was headed by another eminent eye specialist Dr. J.E. Abraham, Superintendent, Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.\textsuperscript{61}

The camps conducted before D.M.K. came to power were at few centres. A small number of people alone benefited. During the D.K.K. rule, the camps were conducted throughout Tamil Nadu and within four years (1971-1975) nearly 7 lakhs of people benefited. With a view to help the poor, the eye camps were organized mostly in interior village, with the co-operation of voluntary agencies, and public as well as the developmental department of the the Tamil Nadu Government. Boarding and lodging facilities were given freely for the patients in these camps. The table below shows the details regarding eye Camps.\textsuperscript{62}

The below table shows the total number of eye camps conducted in Tamil Nadu under this scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Number of three Eye Camps conducted</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Number of beneficiaries under the Free Eye Camp Scheme</td>
<td>7,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Number of Cataract operations performed</td>
<td>1,02,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Number of free spectacles provided</td>
<td>1,02,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Number treated for Night blindness</td>
<td>85,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Minor operations</td>
<td>2,508</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources : Tamil Nadu Administration Report, 1972.

Initially the studies revealed that about 3% of the population in Tamilnadu, suffered from serious eye ailments like Glaucoma. Normally those affected were above fifty. Due to lack of medical aid, these ailments which could have been cured

\textsuperscript{61}. Tamil Arasu, June 1, 1973, p.43.

\textsuperscript{62}. Government of Tamil Nadu, Tamilnadu’s Eight Years Madras, 1975
normally developed until the patients suffered from complete vision impairment. This made them totally dependent on the others in the family, and they were considered a burden. The above free eye camp scheme benefited about 7 lakhs poor people and helped them to be independent, productive members of the society.

**Schemes for the Welfare of the Handicapped**

The State Social Welfare Board came into existence in 1954. The Directorate of Women’s Welfare was formed in 1955. All the above two agencies were combined to form the Department of women’s Welfare in 1961.63 In the year 1972, the Department of Women’s Welfare was redesignated as the Department of Social Welfare by expanding its scope to cover various activities such as the Nutritious Meal Programme for pre-school children, programme for care of nursing mothers, and the Home for Beggars. The same department was also asked to undertake various welfare measures for the physically handicapped.64

In the year 1974 a survey of physically handicapped was undertaken to gather relevant details and to introduce various welfare measures. The total number of handicapped persons was estimated to be 2,351 lakhs. This included 1.15 lakh orthopaedically handicapped, 72,745 Deaf, and mutes 46,118 Blind. This survey enables the government to devise rehabilitation scheme to help the physically handicapped.65

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64. *Tamil Arasu*, January 78, p.48.

Educational Schemes for Physically Handicapped

A State Board was organized for studying the problems of the handicapped from all aspects and for rendering suitable assistance to all those already engaged in this use and to give direct help in all deserving cases.66 The Minister for Social Welfare was made the chairman of the period.67 The Boards functions were as follows,

1. To identify the difficulties in extending rehabilitation or services to the physically handicapped in Tamil Nadu.

2. To improve the state of physically handicapped in exultation with the State Government and to plan and minute various programmes to improve the state of the socially handicapped through medical, vocational and social rehabilitation.

3. To identify the employment opportunities and to source the handicapped in suitable employment.

4. To extend aid to individuals / associations / organizations which were working for the development and welfare of the handicapped in the State.

5. Similarly to coördinate the Board’s activities in those of the Rehabilitation Centres so as to enable to successfully carry out their programmes.

The fund allocated for the physically handicapped was administered by the chairman, the Minister for Social Welfare. Fourteen schemes were formulated for the welfare of the handicapped.68 These schemes can be classified into four categories. They were:

1. Schemes for the age group of 6-16 years.


68. Tamil Arasu, June 1974, pp.30-34.
2. Schemes for the age group of 16-50 years.
3. Schemes for the age group of over 50 years.
4. General schemes.

For those under the 6-16 years of age group five special schools were founded for the Deaf and Mute costing about Rs.6 lakhs. Further a centre was to be opened for training teachers to teach the physically handicapped. For the above purpose a sum of Rs.3 lakhs was spent. The above arrangement enables the handicapped children to pursue their education while under treatment. For the treatment of these handicapped children an amount of Rs.7.5 lakhs was allocated and the schools were attached to the District Headquarters’ Hospitals. In 1974 the Government started schools attached to orthopedic centers and District Headquarters Hospitals where children who received medical treatment could continue their education without break. The following government Hospitals have orthopedic schools attached to them.

1. Government General Hospital, Madras.
2. Government Stanley Hospital, Madras.
3. Government Children Hospital, Madras
4. Government Royapettah Hospital, Madras
5. Thanjavur Medical College Hospital, Thanjavur.
6. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Tirunelveli.
7. Madurai Medical College Hospital, Madurai
8. Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore

*69. Tamil Arasu, June 1974, pp.30-34.*
Expenditure for running these schools was borne by the Social Welfare Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The State Government has subsidized the cost of limb-fitting with the intention of making rehabilitation accessible even to the poor and had spend Rs. 45,000 every year.\footnote{Tamil Arasu, June 1974, pp.30-34.}

For those in the age group of 16-50 years apprentice schemes were envisaged. The trainees were to be recruited as apprentices in selected departments like Transport Department, Government Transport Corporation, the Stationery and Printing Department, Tamil Nadu Small Scale Industries Corporation and Khadi and Village Industries Boards. An allowance of Rs.50/- per month was paid for a period of six months. Subsequently these apprentices were to be absorbed on permanent basis in the respective department and undertakings. The total fund provided for the scheme was Rs. 3 lakhs.

**Employment Programme Disable Persons**

Establishment of training cum production workshops to provide employment for 150 physically handicapped persons at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs on the Madras Mahabalipuram Highways was another measure. Under this programme a training cum production workshop to cater to 150 physically handicapped persons was proposed to be established at Muttukadu in 1975. In the year 1975, seventy five physically handicapped candidates were trained in three batches and fabrication of steel products. Further, the government spent Rs. 25 laks as against Rs. 10 lakhs in production work in light engineering, structural work and machine components
commended at Muttukadu. Further about seventeen wheel chairs, ninety eight tricycles, one hundred and thirteen healing aids, and ninety four aluminum crutches were distributed.

Provision was made for training about 5000 physically handicapped persons for employment in labour intensive industries. They were to be trained in the following labour intensive occupations (a) Match making (b) Beedi making (c) Handlooms and (d) Hosiery. A stipend of Rs. 30/- per month was to be paid. The fund allotted for the above scheme was Rs.5 lakhs during the year 1974-75. The handicapped women were also trained in cloth weaving, mat weaving and handloom weaving.

**Free Secretarial Courses**

To benefit the orthopedically handicapped and the Deaf and Mutes who had passed the S.S.L.C. examination, twenty centres were proposed to be established to impart training in typewriting and shorthand at a cost of Rs.8.80 lakhs. Each trainee was to be paid thirty rupees per month as stipend. This scheme was to benefit four hundred candidates in 1974-75. Further, at Sree Seva Mandir, orthopaedically handicapped women were given training in typewriting and shorthand at the cost of the government.

**Tailoring Centres**

An amount of Rs.5,47,700 was allocated for the opening of twenty tailoring for the orthopaedically handicapped and the Deaf-Mutes. A monthly stipend of

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72. *Tamil Arasu*, December 74, p.45
Rs.30.00 was to be paid for the trainees. Deaf girls were also trained in Doll making, embroidery and dressmaking. Blind girls were trained in mat-weaving and handloom weaving. Training in the verification and sorting out of Punch Cards of computers for four months in Data Processing Centre, Madras was given to the orthopaedically handicapped and Deaf-Mutes, with a stipend of Rs.50/- per month. The total fund allotted for this purpose was eighty thousand. The government wanted to preferentially reserve certain posts like lift operators for the physically handicapped.

Special Employment Exchange Programme were proposed to be opened, both in Madras and other Districts. The special employment exchangers were created in 1962, but were made more effective during the D.M.K. period. The various activities of the special employment exchanges include culling out of vacancies and bringing them to the notice and sponsoring the most suitable registrants for employers’ consideration. Follow up actions like motivating the employers and identifying suitable job openings where the disabled persons can be productively employed by conducting job studies and job analysis. Further, some schemes like the following have been devised;

1. Assistance information of co-operative societies by the physically handicapped for self-employment for eg., the Co-operative society for the Blind.

2. Establishment of a Book Binding Training Centre on December 7, 1972 for the physically handicapped inside the Madras Museum under the direct supervision of the Special Employment Exchange.

3. Free Medical examination to the candidates selected for the posts in Group ‘C’ and ‘D’ cadres in Government offices.

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73. Tamil Arasu, January 1975, p.20
4. The Special Employment Exchange in Madras assisted interested disabled youth to benefit themselves under the passive Bunk Stall scheme by recommending such course to the Director of Social Welfare.

5. Recommending the deserving and qualified handicapped individuals to Revenue authorities for grants of old age pension.74

For the benefit of the orthopaedically handicapped, manufacture of artificial limbs were being carried out at the following places:

1. The Government General Hospital, Madras.
2. The Government Erskine Hospital, Madurai.
3. Coimbatore Headquarter’s Hospital, Coimbatore.
4. Raja Mirasdar Hospital, Tanjore.

The table below shows the Performance of Special Employment Exchange in Tamil Nadu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number of candidates Registered</th>
<th>No. of Persons placed in Employment</th>
<th>Number on the live Register</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968 – 69</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968 – 70</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970 – 71</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971 – 72</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>1032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972 – 73</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>1050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973 – 74</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>1471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974 – 75</td>
<td>1310</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>2319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975 - 76</td>
<td>1148</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>2607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Tamil Nadu State Administration Report, 1967-76.

About 23% of the total population of the physically handicapped were in the age group of above fifty. The only welfare measure that could be implemented for that age group was the old age pension scheme. The former pension grant which had been granted earlier was increased to one hundred and fifty lakhs rupees in the year 1974–75. This old age pension scheme for the destitute and handicapped beggars was started as early as 1962. This scheme was modified in the year 1974 to extend the benefit to the programme to help the handicapped, physically handicapped. Those with disability of 50% or more are entitled to the pension. The age limit was reduced from 60 to 55 years. The Government reserved 10,000 beneficiaries exclusively for the physically handicapped.

Tamil Nadu was the first state to start an Artificial Limb Centre for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. One centre had already been started by the Government of India at Pune in 1944. In 1963 an Artificial Limb Centre was started as part of the Orthopaedic Department of the Government General Hospital, Madras. The institute of Child Health was furnished with an Orthopaedic Department from 1972, and two clinics exclusively to treat congenital club foot and polio cases. The Department attended to all types of Orthopaedics problems in infancy and childhood. The credit of opening the first head injury unit in India goes to the Government of Tamil Nadu. From the year 1971 a Diploma course in psychological

75. Tamil Arasu, June 1974, p.5.

76. Ibid.

77. Madras Information Vol.XXII, No.1 January, 68, National prosthetic and Orthopaedist Training Centres

Medicine had been started in Tamil Nadu. During the year 1973, training in psychiatry was also given to students of Medicine, Nursing, and Social Work. A medical officer and a pharmacist were sent continuously to the rural areas to give psychiatric treatment. Clinics for the Adolescent were started in 1971 and it treats 200 children between the age group of 13-18. Neurosis Clinic had been functioning from 1969. Patients suffering from neurosis like anxiety, spate, hysteria, obsessive compulsive neurosis etc., were treated. There are separate blocks for male, female, children and criminal lunatics.

**Education Programme for Blind**

The Education of the Blind in Pre-Independence period was thoroughly neglected by the Government. Thirty-two schools with a total strength of 1212 existed throughout India in 1944. There were 1059 seats vacant in these schools. Normally parents neglected the education of their blind children. The Tamil Nadu government found that the existing schools for the blind were not enough. So a provision of 4.3 lakhs was proposed for this purpose. As per the programme these schools were opened at Chengleput, Coonoor and Chidambaram in 1975-76. Government’s concern for the education of the handicapped was extended to other fields also as explained above. It included medical treatment and employment.

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80. Ibid.


82. Ibid., p. 162.

83. Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol.LXII, 2.2.1975 to 5.3.1975, p.558.

84. *Tamil Arasu*, June 1974, p.5
For Medical treatment, Glaucoma Clinics and Orthopedic Clinics were started for correction of squint types and treatment of muscle imbalance in 1967. The three operation theatre was opened in 1968. Further, a new out-patient block was started with theatre, auditorium, bacteriological, pathological and biochemical laboratories at the Madras Eye Hospital. These cost the government about 4.18.75 lakhs. For the disabled who continued with their collegiate education, the government contributed Rs.72,200 in the form of scholarships in 1973-74, Rs.74,000 in 1974-75 and 4.68,010 in 1975-76. Two more blind schools were opened at Tiruvarur and Nagercoil in 1975. The government appointed four blind persons as Lecturers in the colleges during 1974. This was considered to be one of the means of rehabilitating the blind. The Government’s intention was to encourage blind graduates after reviewing the performance of the lecturers.

In short the Government’s efforts to secure the welfare of the disabled did not stop with formal educational institutions, rehabilitation homes and providing medical care. It also created employment opportunities in respect of recruitment to State Government vacancies in Grade III, priority being accorded to the physically handicapped. State awards were also given for the best employees and employers of the handicapped. These awards were introduced in 1971 to encourage both the physically handicapped and the people who were in a position to employ them. By giving recognition to the employers could be convinced of their abilities. Further, an award was given to outstanding employees of the blind, deaf, orthopaedically

handicapped, mentally retarded and leprosy cured.\textsuperscript{88} Thus the Tamil Nadu
government took all steps to see that the physically handicapped were aided in all
fields to encourage them to live a life of independence, not reduced to a life of
drudgery and begging.

**Loans for the Economically Under-Privileged**

Some of the other schemes to help the under-privileged launched by the
D.M.K. Government are loans to taxi drivers to buy their own taxis, loans granted to
the unemployed youth to set up their own business and eradication of hand-rickshaws.
The last scheme had been dealt with elaborately.\textsuperscript{89}

The D.M.K. Government considered it demeaning and insulting for one man
to carry another like a beast of burden for transport purposes. To enable man engaged
in the above profession using hand rickshaws for transport purposes, to live a life of
dignity, the D.M.K. brought forward the proposal to abolish the hand rickshaws. The
total number for licensed rickshaws in the city of Madras in 1955-56 was 3,750; of
these cycle rickshaws numbered only 225. During the D.M.K. rule, there were 2,000
hand rickshaws in Tamil Nadu; of these 1,294 were playing in the city. Most of the
rickshaw pullers hired this rickshaw and had to pay a certain percentage of their
earnings to the owners of the hand-rickshaw. Usually they were Harijans who had
come to the city in search of work.

\textsuperscript{88} *Tamil Arasu*, April 1974, pp.30-31.

\textsuperscript{89} Tamil Nadu State Administrative Report, 1973-74, p.408.
The fund for eradication of hand rickshaws was collected as donations from the public. Nearly Rs 25 lakhs were collected. From the money collected, the government provided cycle rickshaws to almost 75% of the rickshaw pullers.\textsuperscript{90}

Following table shows the number of cycle Rickshaws distributed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Number of Free Cycle Rickshaws distributed</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Number of Cycle Rickshaws distributed under Corporation Employees plan</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Number of Cycle Rickshaws distributed to jobless persons.</td>
<td>973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A sum of Rs 200/- was given as compensation for the owners. Tamil Nadu had the distinction of being the first State in India to abolish hand rickshaws and the credit goes to D.M.K. Government under the leadership of M.Karunanidhi for putting an end to this undignified practice of man being a beast of burden.

**Abolition of Horse Race in Tamil Nadu**

The first horse race is reported to have been seen in Madras in 1777. Madras Race club started functioning in the year 1896 and was registered in 1922 under the Indian company act.\textsuperscript{91} The race club at Ootacamund was founded in 1921, it was amalgamated with the Madras Race Club in 1970. The Bucket shops where bets were made were declared illegal in 1929, a committee was also appointed to study the evils arising out of betting and to suggest ways to remedy the evils. The Government’s concern about abolishing horse racing can be seen from C. Rajagopalachari’s remarks on horse racing in 1937. “I think is much reason behind the general demand that

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\textsuperscript{90} Tamil Arasu, September 1973, p.6.

\textsuperscript{91} Information furnished by the Home Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, 30 August 1989.
gambling at races should be put an end to … I would like a comprehensive anti-
gambling Act to be drafted. Of course the races need not be stopped nor anything by
which genuine interest in horses may be maintained. The class of betters that do not
care about the horse but only wish to gamble should be covered by legislation.”

To discourage the lower classes from horse race betting, the entrance fee was
raised from Rs. 1 to 2.50, the minimum unit of betting was raised from Rs. to Rs.5.
On November 4, 1956, the Tamil Nadu Government decided to end horse race betting
altogether and on January 14, 1947, the madras city police and gaming Amendment
Bill was published and it was to come into force on April 1, 1950, after being enacted
as a Law but it was postponed due to the intervention of Prime Minister Jawaharlal
Nehru. Writing to the Chief Minister of Madras in December 20, 1950, he said that by
putting an end to hours betting, horse breeding would suffer. Further there would be
loss of revenue. Although loss of revenue should not be taken into consideration when
high principles were involved, there was nothing immoral about horse racing. Nehru
said that on every occasion even the President’s name had been associated with some
of the races. During the 1950s and 60s there were recurrent suggestions that book
makes should be eliminated. Nothing however came of any of these suggestions till
1972.92

The D.M.K under its Social welfare plans decided to do away with this evil by
abolishing book maker from 1972-73 and this decision was given effect to in the
1972-73 racing season resulting in the loss of huge revenue. The on April 10, 1974
that no benefit would accrue from abolition of horse-racing in Tamil Nadu, unless

neighboring states did likewise.\textsuperscript{93} He went on to say that abolition of racing was not like abolition of drink as the latter affected the individual physically and that denial of betting opportunity to lower rate of society might be construed as infringing fundamental rights and that the question of abolition of horse racing should be decided on all Indian basis. However on August 14, 1974 it was decided to abolish horse races totally. An act Known as horse race (abolition of wagering and bettering) Act of 1974 was passed.\textsuperscript{94}

Although, it could not come into effect since the Race club took the issue to the courts. Though the High Court of Madras turned down the petition, the race Club authorities appealed to the Supreme Court ruled that the status quo as on December 11, 1975 should be maintained pending disposal of the main issues already before it.\textsuperscript{95} Horse races were resumed from December 14, 1975 and had been continuing since then, under the protection of the Supreme Court’s stay orders. Though the D.M.K government did not succeed in this attempt, the government’s earnestness and sincerity in putting an end to this evil, notwithstanding the huge loss of revenue, should be appreciated.

\textsuperscript{93} Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Debates, April 1974, Vol.XXXV, p. 162.

\textsuperscript{94} Tamil Nadu Horse Racer (Abolition of wagering of betting) Act No.44, of 1974.50. Writ petition No.2355/75; High Court of Madras, 22 September 1975.

\textsuperscript{95} Civil Appeal No. 1715 (v)/1975, Supreme Court, New Delhi, 20 November 1975.