



ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

POLICY NOTE

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MINISTER FOR FORESTS**

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**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
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FOREST DEPARTMENT

Introduction:

Tamil Nadu has a rich tradition of forest management, forest protection practices, legislations and policies. The unique geographic location of the State enables it to host a wide range of forest biomass across the length and breadth of the State. The Western Ghats, the Eastern Ghats and the Coastal plains representing the three major bio-geographic zones of the State support unique forest types and vegetation that have evolved over millions of years.

The benefits forests confer on humanity are diverse. Of late, the ecological functions of forests as storehouses of critical biodiversity, as protector of catchments for important river basin systems and their role in sequestering of carbon and buffering of microclimate have been widely recognized. The above intangible benefits are in addition to the traditional role of forests that includes providing

supply of food, fodder, fuel wood and meeting employment needs of the local population. The State's forests serve as the source of livelihood and development needs for over 50 lakhs of population, particularly the poor and women, living in about 3,072 forest fringe villages in the State.

Climate change and global warming are of great concern for the entire humanity, particularly for the most vulnerable communities living in the low lying areas along the coasts and islands. The country's strategy to this global issue has been climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. Forest Department has a prominent role in ensuring climate change mitigation by enhancing the carbon sequestration potential of the natural forests and by creating additional tree resources.

2. Extent of Forest and Tree Cover:

Tamil Nadu has 23,625 sq.km of forest cover which is 18.16% of the geographical area of 1,30,058 sq. km of the State. The forest and tree

cover is 28,343 sq. km, which is 21.79% of the total geographical area of the State as assessed by the Forest Survey of India (State of Forest Report 2011) as against 33% envisaged in National Forest Policy, 1988. As per the 2011 FSI report, the State has registered a net increase of 287 sq.km. of forest cover as compared to the previous assessment report of 2009.

3. Forest Policy:

The Government of India framed the National Forest Policy, 1988 for management of State forests in the country. The 1988 National Forest Policy principally aims at maintenance of ecological balance and environmental stability that is vital for the sustenance of all life forms. The National Policy calls for making direct economic benefits from forests subordinate to this principal objective. The Policy seeks to achieve this aim by bringing at least one third of the total land area of the country under forest and tree cover (FTC). Against this stated goal, the country's forest and tree cover stands only

at 23.8 % of the total geographical area, thus mandating the country to take urgent measures to improve the country's FTC. The State broadly follows the National Policy priorities in all its forest management efforts.

4. Objectives of Forest Management:

The forests of Tamil Nadu are being managed with the following broad objectives:

- Biodiversity and genetic resource conservation by protection of forests and wildlife.
- Augmentation of water resources in forest areas.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests for improvement of forest cover.
- Enhancing tree cover outside forests for livelihood security and climate change mitigation.

- Welfare of tribal and forest fringe communities to ensure economic prosperity and ecological stability.

5. Strategy:

In meeting the above objectives, Forest policy plans to chart out new paths, develop new relationships and adopt to the rapidly changing societal demands for forest goods and services by adopting the following strategies that will promote a comprehensive forest based development of the State.

1. Biodiversity and Genetic Resource Conservation
2. Catchment Area Protection and Watershed Management
3. Enhancing Climatic Resilience in moderately dense and open forests
4. Forest resource protection
5. Increasing Tree Cover outside Forests

6. Socio-Economic Development of Forest fringe villages
7. Tribal Development
8. Eco-tourism for sustainable livelihood
9. Research, Transfer Technology, Extension and technology support for scientific forest and wildlife management
10. Infrastructure Development and Human Resource Management for efficient delivery mechanism

6. Bio-diversity conservation:

The Western Ghats, the longest hill range in the State is one of the 25 global hotspots of bio-diversity and one of the three mega centres of endemism in India. The forests of Kanyakumari, Kalakadu Mundanthurai, Anamalai, Mudumalai, Mukkurthi, Srivilliputtur and Megamalai owe the abundance of flora and fauna due to their position in the Western Ghats. The Eastern Ghats also support diverse forest types. Of the total number of

17,672 flowering plants recorded in India, Tamil Nadu accounts for 5,640 species, which gives it the pre-eminent position in angiosperm diversity. Many of these are endemic and red-listed species. Tamil Nadu has recorded 165 species of fresh water fishes, 76 species of amphibians, 177 species of reptiles, 454 species of birds and 187 species of mammals. The State has 22 species of mammals, 42 species of birds and 9 species of reptiles that are listed in Schedule -I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and therefore, considered rare and endangered.

Forest management in Tamil Nadu is focused towards conservation of bio-diversity. Tamil Nadu has been in the forefront in zealously protecting its wildlife and guarding the wild resources. The State has added about 887 sq.km of forest area to the Protected Area (PA) network, by declaring a part of Sathyamangalam forest division as a Wildlife sanctuary during 2011-12. This has led to an increase of PA in the State from 4578 sq.km., to 5,465 sq.km., which is about 23.9% of the forest area. The State at present

has 10 Sanctuaries, 5 National parks, 13 bird sanctuaries and one conservation reserve, declared under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Efforts are being made to increase the extent of protected areas to 25% of the forest area of the State.

Tamil Nadu also has one Zoological Park and eight Zoos for promoting ex situ wildlife conservation. The State has three Biosphere Reserves viz. Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve and Agasthiyar Malai Biosphere Reserve. Kalakkadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve was declared as the first Project Tiger area in 1988. The Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary and Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary were declared as two new Project Tiger areas. The State also possesses part of larger elephant habitats, having contiguity with the adjacent States of Kerala and Karnataka, declared as four Elephant Reserves.

Management of the State's forest and its wildlife is pursued as per the prescriptions in the Management Plans for Protected Areas and Working Plans for all divisions. Tamil Nadu can

boast of having the operational approved Working Plans for all its 33 territorial forest divisions. Forest resource protection and bio-diversity conservation initiatives are taken in all sensitive forest pockets, Sanctuaries and National Parks. Regular beat perambulation, combined with special raids and intensive combing operation help in ensuring protection of forest wealth, which has been strengthened by providing jeeps to 225 territorial and wildlife Range Officers during 2005. Besides, the anti-poaching camps run in interior forest areas help in preventing timber smuggling, poaching and other anti-social activities in forests effectively. All these efforts have contributed significantly towards development and conservation of bio-diversity in the State.

Population status of flagship animal species in the State's forests is studied by scientific assessment techniques like Camera traps, DNA fingerprinting etc. Recent animal censuses reveal that wild animals like tiger (National animal), elephant (National heritage animal), Nilgiri tahr

(State animal) and Lion Tailed Macaque (LTM) are showing a steady increase in numbers. Tiger population is 163 (9.6% of India's), Elephant population is 4,015 (15.5% of India's), Nilgiri Tahr population is 1,250 (50% of India's) and LTM population is 1,107 (34 % of India's). It becomes necessary to improve the department's infrastructural facilities in order to increase the mobility of the front line staff to interior and vulnerable forests.

7. Declaration of Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary:

Recognizing the need to protect, propagate and develop wildlife and its environment in the forest areas of Sathyamangalam division, an extent of 887 sq.km. of forest area has been declared as Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuary during 2011-2012, in view of the area's floral, faunal, geo morphological, natural and ecological significance.

8. Administrative restructuring of Divisions and Circles :

In order to improve the protection status and to give focused attention on forest development in each district, formation of four new territorial divisions viz., Tiruvannamalai North, Ariyalur, Ramanathapuram and Megamalai sanctuary divisions have been sanctioned by the Government by suitable redeployment of the existing functional divisions during 2011-2012. Further action will be taken to bring about appropriate changes in the jurisdiction of the circles with a view to rationalize the distribution of forest areas and to improve the functional efficacy of the circles.

9. Forest Protection and Vigilance:

The forests in the State are vulnerable to anthropogenic pressures and the forest resources are under constant threat due to various factors. The threats include sandalwood smuggling, illicit felling of other valuable trees, encroachments,

forest fires, grazing, ganja cultivation in forest areas etc. All these threats are being managed through constant vigil by the Divisional Protection Staff. In addition, the Protection and Vigilance wing of the department collects intelligence on forest and wildlife offences and passes on to divisions concerned for immediate action. The forest personnel are being given special training in order to take up innovative combat and patrol strategies and offence detection methodologies. The protection works include consolidation of forest boundaries by erecting cairns, fire prevention through fire line maintenance and cutting new fire lines, involving local people in firefighting through the creation of Joint Fire Management Committees, employing fire watchers on a regular basis during the dry season, constructing fire watch towers and employing anti-poaching watchers. The Protection and Vigilance Wing formed in 2010 has contributed significantly in improving the protection of forests and wildlife.

There has been a need to further strengthen the wing by providing vehicles, cell phones, additional man power etc. for improved mobility, better communication, enhanced intelligence gathering and prompt transmission of intelligence inputs to the field formations for follow up actions so as to bring a qualitative change in overall protection status of forests in Tamil Nadu.

10. Forest Laws:

The consumption pattern of flora and fauna, combined with industrial revolution have greatly impacted conservation of forest and wildlife. Forest Policy, 1894 laid emphasis for preservation of forest even while commercial utilization of forest produce and wildlife beyond carrying capacity posed serious problems to the ecosystem. The cultural ethos and conservation orientation of Tamil society have paid rich dividends in ensuring the preservation of the State's natural heritage. Tamil Nadu is the first State in the country, which put a ban on green

falling in 1977 and subsequently on harvest of green trees and green bamboos from natural forests.

Tamil Nadu is one of the pioneering States in the field of forest protection. The then Madras Presidency enacted legislation way back in 1882 namely the Madras Forest Act, which is now called Tamil Nadu Forest Act and enforced its provisions for conservation and protection of forests. There was great emphasis for preservation of wild elephant and an enactment namely Madras Wild Elephant Preservation Act was made in 1873 to prevent indiscriminate destruction of wild elephant.

At present, the State also implements Central Acts like Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for protection of wild fauna and flora, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 to regulate diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes and Biological Diversity Act, 2002, for conserving and enriching forest cover/tree cover, Tamil Nadu Hill Areas (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955 and Tamil Nadu

Preservation of Private Forest Act, 1949 for regulating the felling of trees in hill areas and private forests.

The movement of timber including scheduled timber and wildlife during transit is regulated by Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules 1968, Tamil Nadu Sandalwood Transit Rules 1967, Tamil Nadu Maintenance of Accounts in respect of Scheduled Timber Rules 1988, Tamil Nadu Timber (Movement Control) Order 1982 and Tamil Nadu Wildlife (Transit) Rules 1991.

11. Nature conservation:

The objective of the scheme is to maintain and carry out the works such as to drive the animals which enter the adjacent villages back into the forest areas and for undertaking rescue operation of the animals that are in distress, improvement and maintenance of Mini Zoo at Amirthi, Deer Park at Udthagamandalam, Guindy Childrens' Park at Chennai and Kurumbapatti Zoo near Salem including feeding of captive animals. During

2011-2012, this scheme is implemented at a cost of Rs.0.59 crore.

It is proposed to implement the scheme at a cost of Rs.0.65 crore during 2012-2013.

12. Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

Many schemes are implemented for the protection of wildlife and management of protected areas. These schemes are centrally sponsored with 100% central assistance for taking up various developmental activities in different National Parks, Wildlife sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries. Project Elephant, Project Tiger, Conservation and Management of Biosphere Reserves, Conservation and Management of Mangroves, Conservation and Management of Wetlands are some of the major programmes implemented as centrally sponsored schemes. 37 schemes were implemented during the year 2011-2012 at a cost of Rs.18.98 crore.

During 2012-2013, it is proposed to implement these schemes at a cost of Rs.39.02 crore. Further, the Government is examining the creation of a

Corpus Fund to enable the department to implement the schemes from the beginning of the financial year pending reimbursement of the actual releases by Government of India and the State Government.

13. Project Tiger:

The Forest Department has taken several measures to protect the tigers and their habitats. There are three Tiger Reserves in Tamil Nadu viz., Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tirunelveli District, Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district. The importance of tiger conservation lies in the fact that the presence of this predator is an indicator of the health of an ecosystem. Presently, Government of India provides 100% assistance (Non-recurring) and 50% assistance (Recurring), for management, protection and maintenance of the sanctuaries that form part of the tiger reserves. The work components include habitat protection, fire protection measures,

improvement of water sources, eco-development activities, eco-tourism development, controlling of man-animal conflict and improvement of infrastructure facilities.

Tiger Conservation Foundation has been established in each tiger reserve under Sub-section 3 of Section 38 X of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 for facilitating and supporting its management for conservation of tiger and other biodiversity, apart from taking eco tourism and eco-development initiatives by involving the local people in such process.

The Foundation has been registered as a Trust under the relevant rules. Further, the Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.1.00 lakh each to the three Tiger Conservation Foundations to meet the expenditure on establishment.

During 2011-2012, the project was implemented at an outlay of Rs.10.01 crore.

During 2012-2013, it is proposed to implement Project Tiger scheme at a cost of Rs.11.02 crore.

14. Project Elephant:

Project Elephant scheme is implemented in four elephant reserves i.e. Nilgiris - Eastern ghat elephant reserve, Coimbatore elephant reserve, Anamalai elephant reserve and Periyar elephant reserve. With considerable population of elephants, Tamil Nadu is one of the States leading in elephant and their habitat management. Out of an estimated elephant population of 24,000 in India, Tamil Nadu has a population of 4,015 elephants. 100% Central assistance is received every year for this scheme. The scheme is being implemented to protect the elephants and improve their habitats, fire protection measures, providing water facilities to elephants, payment of compensation to the damages caused to crops and loss of human lives caused by elephant etc., erection of solar fence and digging of elephant proof trench to control man-animal conflicts. This scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs.2.28 crore during 2011-2012. A permanent Kumki elephant camp has been established at

Sadivayal of Coimbatore Division to avoid delay and expenses at a cost of Rs.0.70 crore during 2011-12.

During 2012-2013, it is proposed to implement this scheme at a cost of Rs.5.44 crore.

15. Special rejuvenation camp for captive elephants of temples and departmental camps:

The departmental elephant camps are located at Theppakadu (Mudumalai), Kozhikamuthi (Anamalai) and Arignar Anna Zoological Park (Vandalur) with 57 elephants. A special health and rejuvenation camp for 37 temple and mutt elephants was conducted at Theppakadu, Mudumalai for a period of 48 days during 2011-12. The departmental elephants also received special food and nutrient supplements during the camp period for which Rs.0.15 crore was provided by the Forest Department. The rejuvenation camp helped creating a process of socialization, joyful experience for the camp inmates and resulted in psychological improvement in the elephant behaviour.

Similar rejuvenation camp will be conducted for the captive elephants during the year 2012-2013.

16. Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve:

The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve is known for its rich bio-diversity and endemism. It includes 21 coral rich islands along the coastline from Rameswaram to Tuticorin in the core area. There are around 3,600 species of marine organisms recorded in the Reserve, which include 147 species of sea algae, 450 species of fishes, 108 species of sponges, 260 species of molluscs, 100 species of echinoderms, highly endangered Dugong and Porpoise, 4 species of Dolphins, 6 species of Whales, all 5 species of Turtles and 117 species of Corals. The scheme envisages protection of this unique eco system by reducing the biotic pressure and creating alternate livelihood options for the local people who are directly dependent on the marine resources. Eco-development works, protection and

conservation of natural resources, education and awareness programmes, etc. are the main activities under this scheme. During 2011-2012, it was implemented at an outlay of Rs.1.91 crore. During 2012-2013, the scheme will be continued at an outlay of Rs.4.43 crore.

Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust (GOMBRT) was founded by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 2002 to support the livelihood of about three lakhs fishing community members living in 248 coastal villages in the Gulf of Mannar Region. The Trust with UNDP-GEF funding, has formed 248 numbers of Village marine conservation and eco development Committees with about 77,000 fishermen as members. The programme has created a corpus fund of Rs.7.75 crore for extending micro finance to its members to pursue alternative livelihood options, which has been revolved to the tune of Rs.24.9 crore so far, benefitting 30,000 women members. The Trust also funds vocational training courses for the youth, to enable them pursue

non-fishing employment activities. It conducts coaching classes to the school children to enable them perform better in school education and pursue higher studies. The trust undertakes community education programmes for conservation of marine resources and its sustainable use.

Government of Tamil Nadu would fund the functioning of Trust from 01.01.2013 onwards since the UNDP- GEF funding concludes by the end of December, 2012.

17. Wetland Conservation:

Wetland systems directly or indirectly support lakhs of people providing goods and services to them by checking floods, preventing coastal erosion, mitigating the effects of natural disasters like cyclones and tidal waves, storing rainwater, recharging ground water aquifers, by providing nesting ground for many wading birds and water fowls, providing food and shelter for mammals, acting as a carbon sink and by helping to remove a

wide range of pollutants. Of the 94 wetlands identified in India, three are in Tamil Nadu which are Point Calimere, Kazhuveli and Pallikaranai Wetlands. Major activities involved in wetland management are Habitat improvement, Wildlife Protection in Wetlands, Eco-development activities around Wetlands, Research and Monitoring, Awareness creation and Nature Education. During the year 2011-2012, it was implemented at an outlay of Rs.1.75 crores. A special scheme to develop Suchindram-Therur-Manakudi bird conservation complex in Kanniyakumari district over three years period at a cost of Rs.1.61 crore has also been sanctioned during 2011-2012.

During 2012-2013, it is proposed to take up conservation and management activities in the wetlands to the tune of Rs.4.11 crore.

18. Pallikaranai Marshland:

The Pallikaranai marshland is a unique fresh water swamp located within the Chennai Metropolitan area. This wet land is situated in

Perungudi, Pallikaranai and Thoraipakkam villages of Kancheepuram District. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken initial steps to protect this marshland during 2002 and ordered for conservation of this wetland complex. In order to preserve the marshland to discharge its ecological functions, a comprehensive scheme has been sanctioned for taking up various restoration activities for a period five years from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 at a cost of Rs.15.75 crore under State fund, which include the works of habitat improvement, protection, research and monitoring, publicity awareness etc., The Government has also accorded financial sanction for a sum of Rs.5.17 crore for carrying out the works during the year 2011-2012. In order to ensure the implementation of the restoration works during the summer months on a continuing basis and to receive funds from other funding agencies and donors, the setting up of a "Conservation Authority of Pallikaranai Marshland" has been approved by Government.

The restoration works will be continued at an outlay of Rs.5 crore during 2012-2013.

19. Prevention of man-animal conflict and provision for compensation:

Population explosion and industrialization have resulted in reduction in quality of animal habitats, besides fragmentation of habitats, as a result of which wildlife have now started straying out of the forests into human settlements. This results in man animal conflict situations. It is essential to tackle this problem on a war footing through erection of appropriate physical barriers in the vulnerable areas, augmenting fodder resources and providing water holes for wild animals and timely payment of compensation to the victims for the loss of human life, damage to agricultural crops and property. During 2011-2012, the Government has enhanced the compensation amount to be paid for damages to crops, properties and human deaths caused due to wild animals. The compensation for human deaths and permanent incapacitation has

been raised from Rs.1.5 lakh to Rs.3 lakh and for crop damages from Rs.15,000 per acre to Rs.25,000 per acre. Further a “Revolving Fund” of Rs.2.5 crore has been created during 2011-2012 for quick settlement of compensation for damages caused by wildlife.

An amount of Rs.2.90 crore has been sanctioned for payment of compensation during 2011-2012. An amount of Rs. 1.64 crore has been allocated for the purpose for 2012-2013.

20. Asian Elephant depredation and its mitigation measures:

Human wildlife conflict is a complex problem to be managed by adopting a multi-pronged strategy involving habitat improvement including improving water sources, trap crop management (growing crops which are preferred by wild animals as fodder inside the forest area itself), formation of physical barriers along the forest boundary, capacity building of the villagers, awareness creation and timely payment of compensation to the

victims for loss of human life and damage to agricultural crops and property.

The erection of barriers like solar power fence and elephant proof trench along forest boundaries to prevent man-animal conflicts has been appreciated by the people. During 2011-2012, the State Government has sanctioned Rs.11.70 crore for mitigation of elephant depredation in Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Erode, Dindigul, Kanniyakumari and Tiruppur districts. One of the prominent tasks undertaken under this scheme is digging of elephant proof trenches for containing the movement of elephants and other larger mammals outside the forest areas. During the five year period (2006-2007 to 2010-2011) 105.7 km of Elephant Proof Trenches were dug along the forest boundaries. During 2011-2012 alone, Elephant Proof Trenches have been dug to a length of 316 km of forest boundaries at a cost of Rs.6.66 crore under various schemes.

Field based activities will be continued for resolving human wildlife conflict.

21. Creation of fodder resource and improvement of wildlife habitats inside forest areas:

Forest Department pays sizeable amounts of money as compensation for damages caused to the agricultural crops by wild animals and also for loss of life and injury caused by wild animals. With an objective of restricting the elephant movement within the forests, Forest Department has proposed to raise green fodder bank inside the reserved forest areas and to arrange for application of salt licks to the artificial water holes within the migratory corridor to supplement the mineral requirements of the elephants, which are expected to retain the elephants in their restricted migratory path. Construction of check dams and percolation ponds will help meeting the water demand for the wildlife in summer season and also increase the water storage in water bodies. The Government has

sanctioned Rs.20.87 crore for implementation of the scheme for creation of tree fodder plantations and irrigated fodder plots in forest areas for a period of five years from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016. The work was under implementation at a cost of Rs.3.03 crore during 2011-2012.

During 2012-2013, this scheme will be continued at a cost of Rs.5.04 crore.

22. Arignar Anna Zoological Park:

The Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur spreads over an extent of 602 ha of forest area. The park exhibits 1541 animals, which includes 47 species of mammals, 59 species of birds, 31 species of reptiles in all numbering 137 species of wildlife. Over the past 25 years since its establishment, the Zoological park has emerged as a successful ex situ conservation complex and a captive breeding centre for many of the endangered animal species like white tiger, lion tailed macaque etc. The Park attracts about 18 lakh visitors annually. An amount of Rs.0.64 crore was allocated

as Government of India (CZA) share and Rs.0.23 crore as State share for the improvement of AAZP during 2011-2012. Works like maintenance of Paddock area and repairing of Lion and Tiger Cell, Water supply, drainage and sanitation, electricity, development of combined **chelonian** display centre and rainwater harvesting inside the zoo etc. are being undertaken. The works of providing a facelift to the front entrance of the Park including improvement to the parking area have been completed at a cost of Rs.3.25 crore, allocated by Tourism Department. The animal adoption programme by Sponsors in the Vandalur Park is emerging as a significant initiative for inculcating awareness and compassion for wild animals. So far, a contribution of Rs.38.70 lakh has been received from 92 sponsors.

23. Establishment of Butterfly Park at Srirangam:

A butterfly park is under implementation at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur at a

cost of Rs.5.00 crore. A special scheme has been drawn for establishing a butterfly park in 10 ha area in Upper Anaicut Reserve Forest near Srirangam at an outlay of Rs.8.67 crore. Government has agreed to meet the cost of establishing the Park by utilizing the funds from 13th Finance Commission Grants-in-Aid and other sources. A sum of Rs.1.62 crore has been sanctioned from 13th Finance Commission Grants and Rs.7.05 crore will be sanctioned in 2012-2013.

24. Increasing Forest Cover inside forest areas:

The aim is to restore the original forest vegetation in the degraded forests, restore the biodiversity and increase productivity of the forests to meet livelihood needs of the forest dependents. It is necessary to uplift the quality of life of the forest dependents and to restore the degraded forests in Tamil Nadu through their participation. Some of the major projects which have contributed and would

add to the green cover in the State are detailed in the following paragraphs:

(i) Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project :

With the financial support from Japan International Co-operation Agency, Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project was implemented all over the State from 1997-1998 in two phases and this will be completed by 2012-2013. This Project resulted in treatment of 6,57,500 ha. of degraded forests covering 2167 villages at a total cost of Rs.1255.42 crore. The project aims to restore the ecological equilibrium through afforestation, provide alternate employment to the forest dependent rural people thereby decreasing their dependence on the forest. After the completion of main afforestation activities by 2008-2009, the Government has been supporting the project activities through the annual sanctions from State funds regularly.

During 2011-2012, maintenance of older plantations over an extent of 95,000 ha, buffer zone activities like community development and income

generation activities in 460 villages were being carried out at a cost of Rs.45.21 crore with JICA funds. Besides, maintenance of plantations raised over an extent of 31,050 ha during 2010-2011, 3 year Buffer Zone activities and Soil Moisture conservation works in older project areas to augment water resources in these areas are being carried out utilizing the State funds to the tune of Rs.12.59 crore during 2011-2012.

During 2012-2013, maintenance of older plantations and Buffer Zone Activities will be carried out at an outlay of Rs.54.94 crore which includes an outlay of Rs.14.92 crore under State Funds for carrying out maintenance works and buffer zone activities and Soil and Moisture Conservation works.

(ii) National Afforestation Programme:

National Afforestation Programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100% Central assistance. The objective is to improve the degraded forests through Joint Forest Management

by Forest Development Agencies in the districts. During the first four years of 11th Five Year Plan between 2007-2008 and 2010-2011, a sum of Rs.36.31 crore has been released by the Government of India.

During 2011-2012, sanction has been received from the Government of India for restoring 98 ha under "Creation component" and 2,784 ha under "Advance work" at a total cost of Rs.5.00 crore and the Government of India has released an amount of Rs.3.07 crore.

The Government of India also introduced a new scheme during 2010-2011 namely, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover (APRRFC) to promote ecological restoration and regeneration of degraded forests and conservation of the existing forests for enhancing ecological values. During 2011-2012, this work is being undertaken at an outlay of Rs.0.16 crore.

During 2012-2013, it is proposed to take up planting over 2,784 ha and to maintain older plantations at a cost of Rs. 5.00 crore.

(iii) Green India Mission:

The National Mission for Green India was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister as one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It recognizes that climate change phenomenon will seriously affect and alter the distribution, type and quality of natural biological resources of the country.

The objectives of the Mission are:

- a) To increase forest / tree cover on 5 million ha of forests / non-forest lands and improve quality of forest cover on another 5 million ha (a total of 10 million ha).
- b) To improve eco-system services including bio-diversity, hydrological services and

carbon sequestration as a result of treatment of 10 m ha

- c) To increase forest based livelihood income of about 3 million households living in and around the forests and
- d) To enhance annual CO₂ sequestration by 50 to 60 million tonnes in the year 2020. The Mission intends to achieve the objectives by following a landscape approach.

The implementation period of the Mission will spread over 10 years, coinciding with the 12th and 13th Five Year Plan periods. The criteria for selection of landscapes / project areas / sub-watersheds under the mission would include projected vulnerability to climate change. In Tamil Nadu, 5-10 landscapes, each about 5000 ha area are being identified for implementation of Green India Mission. Based on the advisory note received from the Government of India, bridge plan for

implementation of Green India Mission in one of the identified landscapes, namely, Kollimalai in Namakkal district was prepared, which has been approved at an outlay of Rs.0.72 crore by Government of India.

Identification of other landscapes to implement the project during 2012-13 is in progress.

25. Western Ghats Development Programme:

The objective of scheme is to conserve the forest area of the Western Ghats except Nilgiris district. It is being implemented in Coimbatore, Erode, Dindigul, Kanniyakumari, Madurai, Theni, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur and Virudhunagar districts. Fire prevention works, soil and moisture conservation works and anti-poaching measures are some of the major activities carried out under this scheme. During 2011-2012, this programme was implemented at a cost of Rs.5.09 crore.

It is proposed to implement this scheme during 2012-2013 at an outlay of Rs.3.59 crore.

26. Hill Area Development Programme (HADP):

The objective of the scheme is to conserve the forest areas of Nilgiris district. Soil and moisture conservation works, fencing shola forests, fire prevention measures, anti-poaching measures and improving wildlife habitats are being carried out under this scheme. During 2011-2012, the programme was implemented at an outlay of Rs.4.49 crore.

During 2012-2013, it is proposed to implement this scheme at a cost of Rs.5.28 crore including establishment cost.

27. Intensification of Forest Management:

The erstwhile Integrated Forest Protection Scheme has been implemented as a Centrally sponsored scheme and was aimed at protecting the forest resource by strengthening protection measures for controlling forest fires, survey and demarcation of forest boundaries to prevent encroachment by construction of cairns,

improvement of roads, provision of better communication facilities, preparation of working plans for scientific management of forest divisions etc.

With a view to make the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme broad based, Government of India renamed this scheme as "Intensification of Forest Management". In addition to the above components, four more new components viz.,

- Protection and conservation of Sacred Groves,
- Conservation and restoration of unique vegetation,
- ecosystems, control and eradication of forest invasive species and
- Preparedness for meeting challenges of Bamboo flowering and Improving management of Bamboo forests have been added.

During 2011-2012, this scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs.4.24 crore.

It is proposed to continue the scheme during 2012-2013.

28. 13th Finance Commission:

The 13th Finance Commission has recommended release of an amount of Rs.142.48 crore for Tamil Nadu towards Grants-in-aid for development of forests and preservation of forest wealth for the period 2010-2011 to 2014-2015. The Government of India released a sum of Rs.17.81 crore for implementation of the scheme for 2010-2011.

Based on the above, the State Government accorded administrative sanction and approved the action plan for the implementation of 13th Finance Commission Grants-in-aid for maintenance of forests at a cost of Rs.142.48 crore. An amount of Rs.6.88 crore was utilized for implementation of the scheme during 2010-2011.

The scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs.28.74 crore during 2011-2012, including the revalidation amount of Rs.10.93 crore.

29. Increasing Tree Cover outside Forests:

To increase the green cover outside forests, programmes like Tree cultivation in private lands, Raising Teak plantation in Padugai lands and Free distribution of seedlings to institutions and individual households are being implemented. The recently launched Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project will also help in covering private lands with green cover. These programmes would also help to bridge the gap between future supply and demand of fuel wood and timber in the State. The Madras School of Economics in its study report "Wood Balance Study- Tamil Nadu, 2009" has assessed that the total demand for fuel wood in the state would be between 15.17 and 23.22 million cu.m. by 2013 against the availability of 10.86 million cu.m. in 2008. The total demand for timber would vary between 5.4 and 6.5 million cu.m. by 2013 and between 5.7 and 7.7 million cu.m. by 2018, as against timber availability of 4.54 million cu.m. as on 2008. In order to bridge

the gap between supply and demand, tree cultivation outside forest areas needs to be increased and expanded.

(i) Tree Cultivation in Private Lands:

In order to encourage tree cultivation outside forests, a scheme called "Tree Cultivation in Private Lands (TCPL)" is under implementation since 2007-2008. This programme involves planting of quality tree seedlings in the fallow lands of small and marginal farmers as inter crops. Quality seedlings are raised from the seeds obtained from the "seed production areas" of the department. This scheme not only ensures increased income to farmers but also paves way for wood based entrepreneurship in the State by providing the needed pulpwood, matchwood, furniture wood etc. for future industrial needs. The increase of tree cover improves the quality of the environment in the villages in addition to rural development. About 5.45 crore seedlings have been planted in 65,201 ha till 2011-12 in the private lands of farmers

at a cost of about Rs.56.74 crore. 84,099 farmers have been benefited from this scheme. During the year 2011-2012, 1.19 crore seedlings were planted over 16,006 ha benefiting 12,645 farmers. This activity will be continued in 2012-2013 under the Tamilnadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project.

(ii) Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project:

To strengthen biodiversity conservation as well as to undertake tree planting outside the forest areas to increase tree cover, Tamil Nadu Forest Department has signed an agreement with JICA for implementing an externally aided project namely "Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project". The project will be implemented for a period of 8 years from 2011-12 to 2018-19 at a total cost of Rs.686 crore through a Project Management Unit. This Project would focus on biodiversity conservation, increasing the natural resource base, institutional capacity development

and consulting services. The major activities of the project are habitat restoration, removal of invasive and exotic weeds, conservation of endangered flora and fauna, water conservation, monitoring of impact of climate change, mitigation of human – wildlife conflict, eco development activities in forest fringe villages including tribal villages, augmentation of rural income, community based eco-tourism, tree cultivation in private lands, forestry extension, forestry research and development of infrastructure.

During 2011-2012, Government sanctioned an amount of Rs.21.97 crore for carrying out various works relating to formation of District Management Units, procurement of solar powered torches, vehicles to field staff and training for village volunteers.

(iii) Raising teak plantations on padugai lands:

The objective of the scheme is to create timber resources in the State by planting teak on the canal banks and on river padugai lands, to

increase tree cover outside the Reserve forests and to prevent soil erosion in the canal and river banks. From 2003-2004, a scheme was implemented covering an extent of 16,050 Ha. in Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Salem, Erode and Viluppuram districts at a cost of Rs.21.39 crore. A comprehensive scheme to raise teak plantations on canal and river banks and padugais of Dindigul, Madurai, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tiruchirapalli and Villupuram districts at a total cost of Rs.35.31 crore has been under implementation for a period of 6 years from 2008-2009 to 2013-2014 and teak plantations have been raised over an area of 19,986 ha. During 2011-2012, maintenance works for the teak plantations raised in the earlier years have been carried out at a cost of Rs.6.08 crore.

During 2012-2013, the plantations will be maintained at a cost of Rs.3.06 crore.

(iv) Replanting the Thane cyclone affected areas:

The Thane cyclone that hit the coastal districts of Cuddalore and Villupuram on 30.12.2011 had caused extensive damage of tree assets created along the river/canal banks and on the coastal belts by the Forest Department. Large number of trees have got uprooted by the cyclone. With a view to restore the areas which have suffered loss of trees with vegetation, it is proposed to take up restocking with tree species like teak, casuarina, eucalyptus etc.

(v) Massive Tree Planting Programme:

In order to make tree planting a massive people oriented exercise, this Government accorded sanction for the implementation of a Massive Tree Planting Programme for planting 64 lakh seedlings in 32 districts to commemorate Hon'ble Chief Minister's birthday during 2011-2012 at a cost of Rs.29.44 crore with support from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Indigenous seedlings

of shade providing species mainly Neem, Pungan, Iluppai, Vagai, Shenbagam, Mahilam, Nagalingam, Ala, Kumil, Kadambam etc. were planted in roadside avenues as well as in other vacant institutional and Government lands including educational institutions on a massive scale. Arrangements for watering of plants during non rainy seasons have been made. In order to protect the plants in road avenues, individual tree guards are provided through sponsorship by Forest Corporations, local bodies, industrial establishments and other institutions.

The planting programme is under implementation and will be completed by June 2012.

(vi) Planting of Karuvel in tank foreshores:

Karuvel plantations, raised in tank foreshores are managed by the Forest Department and 75% of revenue from the sale of plantations after deducting maintenance costs is given to the concerned Panchayats. The scheme was stopped

in 2007. Considering the benefits of the scheme in increasing the forest cover in the State, protection of forests from encroachment, benefits to birds and farmers and income to the Panchayats, Hon'ble Chief Minister approved the revival of the scheme from the year 2011-2012 and sanction was given for raising plantations covering 4,000 ha at a cost of Rs.9.8 crore. Further, during the year 2011-2012, a sum of Rs.16.44 crore was released to 1,018 Panchayats covering 28 Districts for the sales made up to 2010-2011. Recognizing the fact that tank foreshores can be put under economic use and encroachments prevented by planting of karuvel, a comprehensive scheme has been drawn up to raise karuvel plantations over 1,00,000 ha of tank foreshores in a period of five years at an outlay of Rs.330 crore.

(vii) Free distribution of seedlings:

The overuse of natural resources has resulted in pollution levels exceeding the threshold levels. The emissions from vehicles and industries

are polluting the urban environment subjecting the inhabitants to increased health risks. The ill effects of environmental pollution can be mitigated by increasing the green cover. During 2011-2012, 5 lakh seedlings were raised and distributed free of cost to institutions and households at a cost of Rs.0.30 crore.

During 2012-2013, it is proposed to continue the scheme at a cost of Rs.0.33 crore.

30. Forest Research, Outreach and Technology support:

Forestry Research has been carried out in various thrust areas based on field needs from time to time. Remarkable achievements have been made in many areas of forestry and the findings translated to the field. The broad focus of the research wing has been on bio diversity conservation and bio productivity enhancement. The mandated research activities include silviculture, tree improvement and forest genetics, soil nutrient management, seed biology,

afforestation and nursery research, agro forestry and organic tree farming and post-harvest technology. New areas of research would include valuation of ecosystem services, environmental research and bioremediation. An amount of Rs.3.56 crore has been sanctioned for research programmes during 2011-2012.

During 2012-2013, research activities will be continued at an outlay of Rs.3.85 crore.

Forestry Extension services and technology support for raising seedlings are provided through 30 Forestry Extension Centres in the State. The Extension centres provide quality seedlings of many forest tree species, besides grafted Tamarind and Nelli plants to the farmers, which will provide increased income. These seedlings are also planted in private lands, which serve as demonstration plots established in farm lands. There is a need to strengthen the extension wing of the Department in order to improve the forestry extension services.

31. Diversion of Forest Lands:

The Forest Conservation Act stipulates that all Government lands declared as forest or private lands declared as forest by the Apex committee constituted by Supreme Court or those areas notified as forests in Government documents require clearance of Government of India in case such lands are to be diverted for non-forestry purposes.

Diversion of areas in National parks and Sanctuaries for non-forestry uses like drinking water supply, provision of electricity, communication network, etc. should not be permitted without prior permission of Supreme Court. The State Government has been empowered under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for diversion of forest lands up to 1 ha. for notified essential developmental activities of various departments in the forest areas not declared as National Parks, Sanctuaries, etc.,

Based on the general approval conveyed by Government of India under Forest

(Conservation) Act, 1980, 6.78 ha. of forest lands have been transferred to other departments by the State Government in 34 cases from 2006 to till now. Overall, 342 cases, involving 4375.44 ha. of forest lands, have been diverted since 1980 for various development activities so far. Taking into consideration the welfare of tribal and forest dependent communities, guidelines have been issued to the District Collectors regarding diversion of forest lands.

The Compensatory Afforestation cost and Net Present value received from the user agencies, in compliance with the conditions stipulated by the Central Government while according approval for diversion of forest land for non-forestry uses under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 is deposited in CAMPA account for compensatory afforestation. During 2011-2012, an amount of Rs.1.42 crore has been sanctioned from CAMPA fund for compensatory afforestation and other forest development works.

During 2012-13, CAMPA fund to the tune of Rs.0.98 crore will be utilized.

32. Improvement of Forest Roads:

A length of 1,380 km of WBM roads and black topped roads and 1,943 km gravel roads totaling 3,323 km of roads are under the control of Forest Department. These roads are being utilized by Government officials in connection with protection and execution of development schemes, besides providing communication to the people. These roads get damaged due to natural wear and tear and are periodically being improved and maintained to keep them as all weather roads. During 2011-2012, improvement of forest roads was undertaken over a length of 141.10 km at a cost of Rs.14.93 crore.

During 2012-2013, maintenance and improvement of roads will be continued.

33. Forest Settlement:

After the enactment of Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882, all the lands suitable to be maintained as forests have been declared as Reserved Forests

and certain Government lands presently found to be important from the forestry point of view are being declared as Reserved Forests through the process of "Forest Settlement" which provides due opportunity to local people to claim their rights, if any, during settlement. Further, the blocks of lands handed over to Forest Department by user agencies in lieu of the diversion of forest lands under Forest Conservation Act 1980 are also subjected to the process of Forest Settlement and then declared as Reserved Forest under Section 16 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882. During 2011-2012, 1499 ha. of lands have been notified as Reserve Forests / Lands and the work is under progress for the remaining blocks.

34. Jenmam Lands:

During the year 2011-2012, an extent of 17,014.13 acres was notified under section 53 of Tamil Nadu Gudalur Jenmam Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act 1969 as forests by the Settlement Officer, Jenmam lands in Nilgiris

District and an extent of 11,204.47 acres was handed over to the Forest Department vide G.O.(Ms) No.363, Revenue Department, dated. 28.11.2011. This was a historic development in the case which has been going on since the abolition of Jenmam lands in the year 1969. The District Collector, Nilgiris District has notified 11,204.47 acres of land under section 26 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882 on 12.02.2012 and the lands were formally taken over by the Forest Department on 20.02.2012 paving the way for the declaration of the Reserve lands as Reserve Forests.

35. Women Empowerment:

The programmes of the Forest Department have established the fact that rural woman have a pivotal role in controlling decisions pertaining to restoration of forests, Joint Forest Management, Resource sharing and employment generation. The guidelines established have provided scope for inclusion of 50% women in Village Forest Committees and one third of women folk in the

executive committee. Nearly 50% of the total members in the 2317 village forest councils formed under Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project are women. Women presidents head 132 Village forest councils. The Women Self Help Groups formed under TAP help revitalize the economy and improve the income levels of the council members. In the project villages, 7174 Self Help Groups have been formed till 2010-11, benefiting 1,04,976 women members.

In the Global Environment Facility supported Eco Development Project in Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, 2,110 Self Help Groups comprising of 68,251 members have been formed in 248 coastal villages and they have been given financial assistance of Rs.7.76 crore.

36. The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006:

The Act was enacted to recognize and vest 'forest rights' in forest land to forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest

dwellers, who have been residing in such forests for at least three generations but whose rights could not be recorded and to provide a frame work for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting. The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department is the nodal Department for this Act and the Forest Department is facilitating the implementation of the Act. Once the tribal people are vested with the rights under this Act, land development and infrastructure development will be assisted under special tribal development programmes.

37. Human Resource Management and Capacity Building:

Tamil Nadu Forest Department has a huge manpower resource. Of the 11,384 posts in the Forest Department, 3,375 are permanent, 5,744 temporary and 2,265 posts are supernumerary. It is worth mentioning that orders have been issued on 28.03.2012 to create

257 new posts of Forest Guards and 257 new posts of Forest Watchers in order to intensify the work of forest protection by formation of 257 new forest Beats. Recruitment of 60 Forest Guards and 60 Forest Watchers will be done in the year 2012-2013.

All these staff need to be suitably trained and their skills upgraded to meet the objectives of the forest policy. The existing Tamil Nadu Forest Academy at Coimbatore and Tamil Nadu Forestry College at Vaigai Dam are endeavoring to meet these challenges. In Tamil Nadu Forest Academy Coimbatore, training is imparted to Rangers (18 months) and Foresters (6 months) while in Tamil Nadu Forestry College, Vaigai Dam, training is imparted to Forest guards (6 months) and Forest Watchers (1 month). Apart from these, special courses of short duration ranging from 3 days to 10 days are conducted as and when required under specific programmes. The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project lays emphasis on capacity building among staff of the Forest

Department by conducting many in-service, domestic and overseas training programmes.

During 2011-2012, a total of 137 vacancies have been filled up through direct recruitment for various categories of field staff and ministerial staff.

The Tamil Nadu Forest Academy at Coimbatore will be celebrating its centenary in 2012 and the training infrastructure of the Academy will be substantially improved. Basic facilities required for the staff will be further strengthened during 2012-2013 through construction of residential buildings and improving infrastructural facilities in the training institutes.

38. Part II schemes for 2012 – 2013 :

During 2012-2013, the following 13 Part-II schemes will be implemented at an outlay of Rs.400.60 lakhs. The priority areas include rock afforestation, improvement of infrastructure in the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy to commemorate the centenary year of the institution, tribal development including improvement of roads in tribal areas, free

supply of seedlings to public, combat training to forest subordinates etc.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount (Rs.in lakhs)
1	Strengthening of Forest Protection - Purchase of vehicles	13.00
2	Raising seedlings for free supply to public	32.50
3	Maintenance and repairing works in Panagal Maaligai	25.00
4	Centenary celebration at TamilNadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore	125.00
5	Strengthening Forestry Extension Activities (Kolapakkam) Development of Ethno- medicinal plant demonstration plots and garden	17.00
6	Network in a Van Vigyan Kendra on pilot basis through website and interactive kiosk at Krishnagiri	10.00
7	Establishing Interpretation Centre at Theppakadu of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve , Ooty	35.00
8	a) Construction of Deputy Director's Quarters at Ambasamudram	25.00
	b) Construction of Tirupur District Forest Office at Udumalaipettai	28.00
9	Maintenance of Forest Road Pannaikadu to Perumpallam Road in Kodaikanal in Dindigul District (Dindigul Circle) (length 1.20 km)	25.00

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount (Rs.in lakhs)
10	Imparting combat training to 300 Forest Guards	2.10
11	Purchase of a bus for trainees for Field visit (one No.) for TN Forest Training College, Vaigai Dam.	20.00
12	Rock Afforestation planting	18.00
13	Driving of menaceful animals	25.00
	Total	400.60 or Rs.4.00 crores

39. TAMILNADU FOREST PLANTATION CORPORATION, TIRUCHIRAPALLI:

Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited was established on 13.06.1974 with headquarters at Tiruchirappalli under Indian Companies Act, 1956. About 75,000 ha. of Reserved Forests and Protected Forests were taken on lease from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. As per Government Orders issued in G.O.Ms.No.18, Environment and Forests (FR.8)

Department, dated 18.1.2012 , 30% of the annual turn over is being paid as lease rent to the Government. At present, there are six Regions in TAFORN viz. Pudukkottai, Aranthangi, Karaikudi, Vridhachalam, Villupuram and Tirukoilur.

Authorised Share Capital:

1,00,000 equity shares of Rs.1000/-each for Rs.10 crore.

Paid up share capital:

56,400 equity shares of Rs.1000/- each for Rs.5.64 crore.

Objectives :

- a) The main objectives of the Corporation are :
To raise, maintain and harvest the Eucalyptus plantations to supply to pulp and paper industries;
- b) To increase the productivity of the forest areas;

- c) Creation of employment amidst the rural population which in time will minimize migration to urban areas;
- d) Conservation of soil and moisture;
- e) To augment the production of raw materials for feeding the existing / proposed forest based industries; and
- f) To serve as an essential link in the efforts to increase the productivity rate of the forest in better utilization of the land resources.

Achievements :

During the year 2011-2012, the Corporation raised eucalyptus plantations over an area of 3,104 hectares at a cost of Rs.6.05 crore. It raised 760 hectares of cashew plantation at a cost of Rs.1.28 crore (up to March 2012). In the year 2010-2011, the sales turnover of the Corporation was Rs.63.81 crore and the Corporation made a net profit of Rs.19.7 crore. In the year 2011-2012, the sales turn over and net profit were Rs.69.15 crore and Rs.27.46 crore, respectively (up to March

2012). The Corporation paid the lease rent and dividend of Rs.17.64 crore and Rs.0.85 crore respectively, for 2010-2011 to the Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 2011-2012.

In order to increase pulpwood production, Ground Truth Verification and Site Matching of Eucalyptus clones and Cashew grafts are implemented.

40. ARASU RUBBER CORPORATION LIMITED, NAGERCOIL:

Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited was established with effect from 1.10.1984 at Nagercoil under the Indian Companies Act 1956. The Corporation has Rubber Plantations over an area of 4279.78 Ha of forest lands. The authorized capital of Corporation is Rs.10 Crore and the paid up share capital is Rs.8.45 Crore. The Corporation pays a lease rent of Rs.3000/- per ha /per annum for matured area under tapping and Rs.400/- per ha./ per annum for other areas.

The Corporation has the following units

Division	Area (ha)
Keeriparai	953.30
Manalodai	968.90
Chithar	859.58
Mylar	612.30
Kodayar	885.70
Total	4279.78

It has two factories producing the following products

Factory	Products
Keeriparai	Cenex, EBC (Estate Brown Crepe), Skim Crepe
Mylar	Cenex, Skim Crepe

Objectives:

- To safeguard the future of the Rubber Plantation Industry;
- To protect the interest of workers and increase employment opportunities, particularly for surplus Rubber Plantation Labourers;

To avoid possible speculative trends in acquisition and management of rubber and other plantations/estates; and

To avoid concentration of ownership of Rubber Plantations in the hands of a few persons.

Workers Details:

Details	Numbers	Wages in Rs.
Tappers & relief Tappers	1164	264.70 per day
Field worker & Protection worker	307	250.45 per day
Factory worker	89	257.85 per day
Tapping Supervisors	37	5071 per month

The number of Sri Lanka repatriates among the workers is 325.

Physical Target and Financial achievement:

Sl. No.	Particulars	2010-11 (Actuals)	2011-12 As per Revised Estimate	Budget Estimate 2012-13
a)	Production of Rubber (in M.T) Target Achievement	1700 1823	1640 1736	1800 -
b)	Income and expenditure (Rs. in crore) a) Income b) Expenditure	44.93 28.75	49.67 31.75	- -
c)	Profit (+) or Loss (-) (Rs.in crore) transferred to Balance sheet	(+) 16.18	(+)17.92	-

Major decisions taken in the year 2011-2012:

With a view to examine the various aspects of the functioning of the Corporation to plan its long term sustainability, the Government constituted a Committee in G.O (D) No.23

Environment and Forests (FR-8) Department
dated 11.01.2012 with the following members:

1. Dr.G.,Balan Samsan,I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests (Retired) - Chairman
2. Thiru A.N.Singh,I.F.S., Managing
Director, Arasu Rubber
Corporation Limited ,Nagercoil - Convener
3. Thiru P.Prakasam,I.F.S.,Chief
Conservator of Forests,
Tamilnadu Forestry Training
college, Vaigai Dam - Member
4. Thiru S.Murugaiah, B.Sc.,B.L.,
Assistant Commissioner of
Labour (Retired) - Member
5. Dr.James Jacob,Director, Rubber
Research Institute of India,
Kottayam - Member

The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

- a) To have a comprehensive review of the working of the Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited and suggest long term measures for the same, including

cutting of costs and improving productivity.

- b) To have a comprehensive review of the wage and salary structure in Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited vis-à-vis the industry as a whole as well as other plantation workers and recommend a justifiable remuneration structure including the periodicity of payment, indirect benefits and other issues.
- c) To examine whether to continue Arasu Rubber Corporation Limited as a Corporate body or to bring it under Forest Department administration as Government Rubber Plantation or to merge the Corporation with Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited or similar Corporations.

The Committee's report will be studied in detail and Government would take further steps to strengthen the Corporation.

- (i) The Corporation paid a Dividend of Rs.1.01 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu during the year 2011-2012.
- (ii) The Corporation contributed an amount of Rs.50 Lakh in connection with the Massive Tree Planting Programme on the occasion of the 64th Birthday of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- (iii) The Corporation contributed a sum of Rs.72.50 Lakh towards Hon'ble Chief Minister's Public Relief fund for the Thane Cyclone.
- (iv) During the year 2011-2012, replanting has been done for 257 Ha. with high yielding clones.

41. TAMIL NADU TEA PLANTATION CORPORATION LIMITED (TANTEA), COONOOR, THE NILIGIRIS DISTRICT:

Introduction:

A Government Tea Project was started by the Government of Tamil Nadu for raising tea plantations in 1968 through the Forest Department with the socio-economic objective of rehabilitating the repatriates from Sri Lanka under the Shastri-Srimavo Pact. Later, the tea project was registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 viz., "Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation Limited" and is popularly known as "TANTEA".

Authorised Share Capital:

1,00,000 equity shares of Rs.1000/- each for Rs.10 crore.

Paid up share capital:

59,618 equity shares of Rs.1,000/- each for Rs. 5.96 crore.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the Corporation are:

- To employ and resettle the repatriates from Sri Lanka in the Plantation Schemes and
- To acquire on lease from the Government of Tamil Nadu the Tea Plantations established under Government auspices under the Master Plan for Rehabilitation of the above said repatriates in the Forest areas of Nilgiris District and other suitable areas in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Tea planted area:

The Corporation is maintaining plantations over an area of 4431.92 ha. on the lands leased out by Government of Tamil Nadu, as follows:

Phase	Year	Planted area in Ha.		
		Nilgiris	Anamallais	Total
Phase I	1969-1979	1850.74	..	1850.74
Phase II	1979-1981	591.10	..	591.10
Phase III	1982-1984	336.58	..	336.58
Phase IV	1990-1995	568.00	1085.50	1653.50
TOTAL		3346.42	1085.50	4431.92

Achievements:

Particulars	2010-11		2011-12	
	Target	Actuals	Target	Actuals
<u>Physical</u>				
Harvest of Green Tea Leaf.	440.00 lakh kg.	392.92 lakh kg.	400.00 lakh kg.	378.64 lakh kg.
Production of Made Tea.	106.00 lakh kg.	93.22 lakh kg.	96.00 lakh kg.	89.57 lakh kg.
<u>Financial</u> (Rs. in crore)				Provisional
Income	69.84	60.71	64.20	59.99
Expenditure	70.49	77.54	74.01	68.15
Profit (+) / Loss (-)	(-) 0.65	(-)16.83	(-)9.81	(-)8.16

Major initiatives taken in 2011-2012:

1) To improve productivity and sales realization, the following steps have been taken:

- Intensive monthly review by Managing Director, TANTEA with Divisional Managers on field-wise harvest of green tea leaves, number of workers engaged for harvesting green tea leaves, number of plucking rounds per month in a field, productivity etc. to ensure that all green tea leaves are harvested on time.
- Assistant Field Conductors recruited for supervising the field operations were reverted back to field to supervise better the yield of green tea leaf.
- The grades and percentage of each grade out of total production are decided by the Sales and Marketing wing of Registered Office which is

fixing the monthly percentage of different grades to be produced in each of the factories, based on market information.

- Despatch of tea to different auction centres through the monthly despatch schedule is being finalized by Sales and Marketing wing of Registered Office and communicated to the factories by 25th of every month to ensure proper match of the production quality and the demand in the auction centre.
- Consistency in quality is the number one factor in deciding the price. A full fledged tea tasting laboratory is set up in Sales and Marketing wing of Registered Office in its premises.

2) Rs.20 lakhs was obtained from Hill Area Development Programme for providing drinking water facilities for workers' quarters.

3) Unutilized land of 1304.93 ha. has been handed over to the Forest Department as per orders issued in G.O.Ms.No.33, Environment and Forests (FR.8) Department, dated 09.02.2012.

4) Government have ordered considerable increase of plucking incentive rates to the Workers of TANTEA. The existing and revised incentive rates to the workers are as follows:

EXISTING	REVISED
Upto 25 kg. – No incentive	Upto 25 kg - No incentive.
26 kg to 40 kg – Re.0.50/ kg.	26 kg to 35 kg. – Re. 0.50/ kg. 36 kg to 40 kg. – Re.1.00/ kg.
41 kg to 60 kg – Re.0.70/ kg.	41 kg to 50 kg – Rs.2.00/ kg.
61 kg and above – Rs.1.10 / kg.	51 kg and above– Rs.3.00/ kg.

Due to above increase in incentive rates, the workers of TANTEA will get higher daily income and it will also improve the production and productivity of TANTEA.

K.T. PATCHAIMAL
MINISTER FOR FORESTS