

Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments

Department

Hindu Religious and Charitable

Endowments Department,

Demand No.47

Policy Note

2013-2014

Introduction

“ஆலயம் தொழுவது சாலவும் நன்று”

“கோயில் இல்லா ஊரில் குடியிருக்க வேண்டாம்”

The above sayings prove the importance of temple worship. Temple worship is intertwined with Tamil life and culture. People depend on temples and good governance for peaceful living. This has been seen in the State of Tamil Nadu for over 1300 years. Saint Thirunavukarasu Swamigal brings out the types of temples that existed in those days in his work “Thiruthandagam” beautifully:

பெருக்காறு சடைக்கு அணிந்த பெம்மான் சேரும்

பெருங்கோயில் எழுபதினோடு எட்டும் மற்றும்

கரக்கோயில், கடிபொழில் சூழ் ஞாழல் கோயில்

கருப்பறியல் பொருப்பு அனைய கொகுடக்கோயில்
 இருக்கு ஓதி மறையவர்கள் வழிபட்டு ஏத்தும்
 இளங்கோயில், மணிக்கோயில், ஆலக்கோயில்,
 திருக்கோயில் சிவன்உறையும் கோயில் சூழ்ந்து
 தாழ்ந்து இறைஞ்சத் தீவினைகள் தீரும் அன்றே

Meaning

Saint Thirunavukkarasu (Appar) mentions several kinds of temples in his above verse from the Thevaarapathigam, Tiruthandagam (Thiruadaivu Chapter 6)

“If seventy-eight (great) temples of the Lord,

whose matted crest is adorned with the river in great flood (Ganges) , Perumkoyil*,

Karakkoyil*, Jnalarkoyil*, surrounded by well – protected Groves,

the hill like Kokudikkoyil* of Karruppariyal*, Ilangkoyil* ,

where by chanting the Rig Veda the Vedic Pandits hail and worship the Lord,

Manikkoyil*, Aalakkoyil* and every Tirukkoyil (Temple) where Siva abides

are circumambulated and hailed in humble

Adoration, evil karma will get annulled”.

The types of temples are described.

1. Perumkoyil* : It may be great temples or temples for Siva constructed by Chenganan, the Chola king. He constructed 78 temples, 70 for Siva and 8 for Vishnu. They were known as Perumkoyil or Madakkoyil. (i.e.) storeyed temples. They had a

top portion which resembled an elephant in its lying posture; i.e. they had long domes, which were influenced by the Buddhist style.

2. Karakkoyil* : Probably a type of stone temple

3. Jnalarkoyil*: Probably a temple constructed by a kind of wood called Jnalal.

4. Kokudikkoyil*: Temple that appears to resemble a sub species of the creeper Jasmine (Mullai - Kokudi)

5. Karruppariyal*: Thiru Karruppariyalur temple is of this type. This may refer to a place now called Parasalur (Kila Parasalur) Veerateswarar temple, about 4 kms from Sembanarkoil.

6. Ilangkoyil*: May be a small temple as contrasted with the Perumkoyil

7. Manikkoyil*: It seems to be a particularly beautiful type of temple. Saint Sambandar refers to Madurai temple as a Manikkoyil.

8. Aalakkoyil* : The temples constructed over Lingas once sheltered by a banyan tree or a linga under any tree in the days when Thevaram was sung.

2. The whole world knows that the temples that were once protected and patronised by the Chera, Chola, Pandya and Pallava kings are at present under the administrative care of the Government of Tamil Nadu and its Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, which looks after them as if they were their own eyes.

3. Tamil Nadu has innumerable Saivite Temples, Vaishnavite Temples, abodes of Lord Muruga, popular Amman

temples, village temples etc. spread all over the state. Most of the temples have been endowed with movable and immovable properties donated from kings to the common people. The bounden duty and responsibility of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department lies in protecting and preserving the movable and immovable properties belonging to the temples and looking after the temples themselves. It is also the duty of the department to look after the devotees who come to visit the temples and provide enough facilities to them.

Administration

4. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act was enacted in the year 1959 realizing the fact that the administrative governance of Temples, Mutts and Endowments are to be monitored by the Government after carrying out the required modifications by examining the various enactments between the year 1863 and 1956. The Act has been cautiously amended as and when required in the interest of the public and Hindu Religious Institutions.

5. This Act prescribes the Rights and duties of the Commissioner and other subordinate Officers of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. It also

states various means for improving the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions. This Act further empowers the Government to extend the provisions to the Jain Religious Institutions and Endowments.

Hindu Religious Institutions

6. There are 38,529 Hindu Religious and Jain Religious Institutions under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The details are as follows:-

1.	Temples	36,488
2.	Holy Mutts	56
3.	Temples attached to Holy Mutts	58
4.	Specific Endowments	1,721
5.	Charitable Endowments	189
6.	Jain temples	17
	Total	38,529

Classification of the Hindu Religious Institutions

7. The Hindu Religious institutions have been classified as listed and non listed institutions based on the annual income. The details are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Classification	Annual income	Number
1.	Non listed Institutions – under Section 49(1)	having an annual income of less than Rs.10,000/-	34,336
2.	Listed Institutions – Under Section 46(i)	having an annual income of Rs.10,000/- and less than Rs.2 lakhs.	3,402
3.	Under Section 46(ii)	having an annual income of Rs. 2 lakhs and less than Rs. 10 lakhs.	557
4.	Under Section 46(iii)	having an annual income of Rs.10 lakhs and above.	234
		Total	38,529

Administrative structure

8. The Commissioner, functions as the administrative head of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department responsible to maintain, protect and monitor the administration of the Hindu Religious Institutions according to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Amended Act 39/1996).

9. In order to assist the Commissioner, in the activities such as general administration, conservation and renovation, suits, audit, establishment and management of movable and immovable properties of these institutions etc. the following officers are serving in the headquarters:

Post	Number
Additional Commissioner (General)	1
Additional Commissioner (Enquiry)	1
Joint Commissioner (Head Quarters)	1
Joint Commissioner (Tiruppani) Conservation and Renovation	1
Joint Commissioner (Legal Cell)	1
Joint Commissioner (Education and Charitable Institutions),	1
Joint Commissioner (Verification)	1
Assistant Commissioner (Legal Cell)	1
Assistant Commissioner (Village Temple Poosarigal (Priests) Welfare Board)	1

The list of officers serving in the head quarters from other departments are as below:

Post	Number	Department
Special Officers (Temple Lands)	2	Revenue Department

(District Revenue Officer cadre)		
Superintending Engineer	1	Public Works Department
Executive Engineer	1	Public Works Department
Assistant Divisional Engineer	1	Public Works Department
Assistant Engineer	1	Public Works Department
Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	1	Electricity Department
Senior Draughting Officer	1	Public Works Department
Junior Draughting Officer	2	Public Works Department
Draughtsman	2	Public Works Department
Senior Accounts Officer	1	Treasury Department
Assistant Accounts Officer	1	Treasury Department
Chief Audit Officer (Deputy Secretary Cadre)	1	Finance Department

Regional and District Administration

10. The administration of this Department has been divided into 11 regions at State level and 28 divisions at District level. Each region is administered by a Joint Commissioner and each division is administered by an Assistant Commissioner. The details are as follows:

Jurisdiction of Officers

Sl. No.	Region	Division	Jurisdiction
1.	Joint Commissioner, Chennai	1. Assistant Commissioner, Chennai	Chennai District
2.	Joint Commissioner, Vellore	2. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur District
		3. Assistant Commissioner, Kancheepuram	Kancheepuram District
		4. Assistant Commissioner, Vellore	Vellore District
3.	Joint Commissioner, Salem.	5. Assistant Commissioner, Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri & Krishnagiri Districts

		6. Assistant Commissioner, Salem	Salem District
		7. Assistant Commissioner, Namakkal	Namakkal District
4.	Joint Commissioner, Coimbatore	8. Assistant Commissioner, Coimbatore	Coimbatore District and Nilgiris District
		9. Assistant Commissioner, Erode	Erode District
		10. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruppur	Tiruppur District
5.	Joint Commissioner, Thanjavur	11. Assistant Commissioner, Thanjavur	Thanjavur District (Except Tiruvidaimarudur and Kumbakonam Taluks)

		12. Assistant Commissioner, Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam District (Except Sirkali, Mayiladuthurai and Tarangambadi Taluks)
		13. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvarur	Tiruvarur District
6.	Joint Commissioner, Mayiladuthurai	14. Assistant Commissioner, Kumbakonam	Tiruvidaimaruthur, Kumbakonam Taluks in Thanjavur District and Mayiladuthurai, Sirkali and Tarangambadi Taluks in Nagapattinam District
7.	Joint Commissioner, Villupuram	15. Assistant Commissioner, Cuddalore	Cuddalore District
		16. Assistant Commissioner, Villupuram	Villupuram District

		17. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai District
8.	Joint Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli	18. Assistant Commissioner, Tiruchirappalli	Tiruchirappalli District
		19. Assistant Commissioner, Ariyalur	Perambalur District and Ariyalur District
		20. Assistant Commissioner, Pudukottai	Pudukottai District
		21. Assistant Commissioner, Karur	Karur District
9.	Joint Commissioner, Madurai	22. Assistant Commissioner, Madurai	Madurai District
		23. Assistant Commissioner, Dindigul	Dindigul District and Theni District

10.	Joint Commissioner, Sivagangai	24. Assistant Commissioner, Virudhunagar	Virudhunagar District
		25. Assistant Commissioner, Paramakudi	Sivagangai District and Ramanathapuram District
11.	Joint Commissioner, Tirunelveli	26. Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli District
		27. Assistant Commissioner, Thoothukudi	Thoothukudi District
		28. Assistant Commissioner, Nagercoil	Kanniyakumari District

Inspectors

11. The Assistant Commissioners in the divisions and Joint Commissioners in the regions of this Department are assisted by 224 Taluk level Inspectors.

Personal Assistants

12. The Executive Officers in the cadre of Joint Commissioners at Palani, Tiruchendur, Madurai, Srirangam, Rameswaram and Tiruthani are assisted by Personal assistants in the cadre of the Assistant Commissioner.

Verification Officers

13. To appraise the Jewels and other valuable articles of the temples, there are 6 Verification Officers in the cadre of Deputy Commissioner in 6 Joint Commissioner's Regions, 4 Verification Officers in the cadre of Assistant Commissioner in 5 Joint Commissioner's regions and 1 Verification Officer in the cadre of Joint Commissioner at Head Quarters.

Senior Accounts Officers

14. The Executive Officers in the cadre of Joint Commissioner in 8 temples are assisted by 8 Senior Accounts Officers in the cadre of Regional Audit Officer.

Engineers

15. The following engineers and draughtsman working in the department are preparing estimates for carrying out temple renovations, constructions, supervision of works and record measurement.

Post	Number
Superintending Engineer	1
Executive Engineer	1
Assistant Divisional Engineer	1
Assistant Engineer	1
Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	1
Senior Draughtsman	1
Junior draughtsman	2
Draughtsman	2

16. At every Joint Commissioner's Office there is an Assistant Divisional Engineer and a Junior draughtsman (Except Villupuram Region). The 24 Assistant Commissioner's Offices are having 24 Assistant Engineers. There are 3 Executive Engineers, each working in the regional Joint

Commissioner's Offices at Trichy, Salem and Madurai. There is an Electrical Engineer in each of these regions.

17. The temples at Palani, Samayapuram, Madurai, Tiruttani, Bannari, Marudamalai, Anaimalai and Azhagarkoil are having engineers of their own to carry out renovations.

18. In order to carry out the Tiruppani works at Chennai, Trichy, Madurai and Salem Joint Commissioner's region, there are 4 Senior draughtsmen posts in Tirutani, Arulmighu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Samayapuram, Arulmighu Mariamman Temple, Madurai, Arulmighu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple and Tiruchengode, Arulmighu Arthanareeswarar Temple. Similarly, there are 4 draughtsman posts in the temples of Sholingur, Trichy Malaikottai, Azhagarkoil and Namakkal to work in the above said regions.

Departmental Sthapathy

19. During the renovation of the temples to ensure that the renovation is in accordance with Shilpa Sastra, to iron out the problems that arise during renovation, to advise and to approve the plans with reference to Shilpa Sastra, a Departmental Sthapathy has been appointed in the cadre of Superintendent Engineer in this Department. He assists the

Commissioner to ensure that all renovations are in consonance with Shilpa Sastra.

Regional Sthapathys

20. To review and check the renovations, estimates and plans of the temples, 5 Regional Sthapathys have been functioning at the State Level. After assuming office, this Government has ordered to appoint 6 more Regional Sthapathys to resolve the delays and speed up the renovation and to raise the consolidated monthly pay of Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 15,000/-. During the year 2012-2013, the said 6 Regional Sthapathys and 2 more vacancies were filled up. The consolidated pay of Rs. 15,000/- is being disbursed from the funds of the temples to all 11 Regional Sthapathys.

Due to these appointments every division has 1 Sthapathy and the renovation works are in speedy progress.

Executive Officers

21. Based on the significance, revenue, assets and other festivities of the temple, the following grades of Executive Officers in temples have been created:

Executive Officer's Grade		posts
1	Joint Commissioner	10

2	Deputy Commissioner	10
3	Asst. Commissioner	27
4	Executive Officer-Grade I	66
5	Executive Officer-Grade II	111
6	Executive Officer-Grade III	250
7	Executive Officer-Grade IV	154
	Total	628

The Administration of Mutts

22. There are 56 Holy Mutts under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. In order to monitor the administration of these Holy Mutts, an Audit section consisting of a Regional Audit Officer, 2 Superintendents, 2 Inspectors, 2 Audit Inspectors 2 Assistants are functioning in the Head quarters.

Audit of Religious Institutions

23. There is a Chief Audit Officer in charge of auditing the accounts of religious institutions. To assist the Chief Audit Officer, 2 Deputy Chief Audit Officers, 19 Regional Audit Officers and 28 Assistant Audit Officers are deployed.

High Level Advisory Committee

24. Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Act 1959 has provisions for the Government to be given timely advice in the matters relating to Hindu religious institutions. Accordingly, an advisory committee has been formed headed by **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, having the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments as the Vice Chairman, the Secretary to Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department as Official member and the Commissioner Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment as the member Secretary along with the following 10 non official members.

1.	Sarvasri Ambalavana Pandara Sannadhi, Tiruvavaduthurai Aadheenam, Tiruvavaduthurai
2.	Srimath Kaliyan Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamigal, Sri Vanamamalaimadam, Tirunelveli
3.	Srila Sri Kasivasi Muthu Kumaraswamy Tambiran Swamigal, Kasimadam, Tirupanandaal
4.	Srimath Aandavan Swamigal, Srimath Aandavan Asiramam (Periya Asiramam), Srirangam
5.	Thiru. Karumuthu T. Kannan, Madurai

6.	Thiru M. Nandagopal, Chennai – 600 034
7.	Tmt. Devagi Muthaiah, Chennai – 600 085
8.	Thiru P. R. Ramasubramaniam, Rajapalayam
9.	Manapakkam Thiru M. Kamaraj, Chennai – 600 125
10.	Thiru. Vijayakumar Reddy, Chennai – 600 034

Constitution of District Committee

25. As per the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the Government has to constitute a District Committee in all the districts consists of not less than 3 and not more than 5 non-official members. The Committee shall prepare a panel of names of persons qualified for appointment as Trustees except for the Religious Institutions having an annual income of Rs. 10 lakhs and above. The term of office of the District Committee shall be 3 years. The Constitution of District Committees was omitted in the Act by the erstwhile Government with effect from 16th July 2006. This Government after assuming office, understanding their necessity amended the Act and introduced the constitution of District Committees with effect from 7th December 2012. Action has been taken to constitute the District Committee in each revenue district.

Appointment of Trustees

26. For administering Hindu Religious Institutions under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Non-Hereditary Trustees are appointed to each temple that has Non-Hereditary administration. Accordingly the Board of Trustees should consist of not less than 3 persons and not more than 5 persons. This Board should consist of members among whom one shall be from Adi Dravida or Scheduled Tribe and one shall be a woman. The period of this Trust Board is 2 years.

Powers to appoint Trustees**Government**

27. 5 Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious Institutions falling Under Section 46 (iii) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of Rs. 10 lakh and above are appointed directly by the Government.

Commissioner

28. 3 Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious Institutions Under Section 46 (ii) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income of not

less than Rs.2 lakhs but less than Rs. 10 lakhs are appointed by the Commissioner.

Joint Commissioner

29. 3 Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious Institutions Under Section 46 (i) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act having an annual income of not less than Rs. 10,000 but less than Rs. 2 lakhs are appointed by the Joint Commissioner.

Assistant Commissioner

30. 3 Non-Hereditary Trustees for the Hindu Religious Institutions under section 49(i) of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, having an annual income less than Rs.10,000/- are appointed by the Assistant Commissioner.

31. For those Religious Institutions where the Non-Hereditary Trustees are appointed by the Commissioner, Joint Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners, if necessary, two Non-Hereditary Trustees will be appointed directly by the Government.

Appointment of fit person

32. After completion of the period of the Trust Board, in order to perform the functions of the Board of Trustees, a qualified person will be appointed as a Fit Person as an interim arrangement till the appointment of Board of Trustees.

Land Administration

33. Hindu Religious Institutions have a total extent of 4,78,347.94 acres of land. The details are as below:

Classification of land	Temple Lands	Mutt Lands	Total
(Acre in lakhs)			
Wet	1.83	0.21	2.04
Dry	2.18	0.35	2.53
Maanavari	0.21	Nil	0.21
Total	4.22	0.56	4.78

34. Buildings in 22,600 sites and vacant sites in 33,665 places owned by Hindu Religious Institutions are leased out. Further, the agricultural lands are leased out to 1,23,729 tenants.

35. Approximately Rs. 58.68 crores income is obtained from the above said immovable properties owned by Hindu Religious Institutions.

Fixation of Fair Rent

36. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 provides for fixation of fair rent for the buildings and sites belonging to temples. Accordingly, a committee consisting of the Regional Joint Commissioner, Executive Officer/Trustee/Chairman, Board of Trustees and the District Registrar of the Registration Department is formed to fix fair rent for the buildings and sites used for commercial and residential purposes.

Revenue Courts

37. Revenue courts are functioning with Special Deputy Collectors in order to file cases regarding collection of arrears of land lease revenue, fixation of fair rent for the agricultural lands and eviction of the lessees, who are in default. The details are as below:

REVENUE COURTS	CAMPING REVENUE COURTS
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1.Thanjavur	1. Kumbakonam
2. Tiruchirappalli	2.Salem
3.Mayiladuthurai	3.Tenkasi
4.Tiruvavarur	
5.Cuddalore	
6. Madurai	

Apart from the above Revenue Courts 4 more Revenue Courts at Lalgudi, Mannargudi, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli have been formed during the year 2012-2013 and functioning.

38. During 2012-2013, Rs. 504.04 lakhs of lease arrears have been ordered for collection in 3296 cases out of 20720 pending cases. Necessary steps are being taken for collecting the entire lease arrears.

Retrieval of Lands

39. During the implementation of Updating Registry Scheme (UDR Scheme), the pattas of temple lands were wrongly transferred in the names of private individuals. To

rectify this, two District Revenue Officers have been posted as Special Officers at Madurai and Coimbatore.

40. Pattas of 998.52 acres of temple lands belonging to 188 temples wrongly transferred in the names of private persons, was restored in the names of temples by the government of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

41. Similarly, in computerized chitta, the registration of temple lands was changed and entered in the names of private persons. During 2012-2013, Pattas of 393.42 acres of lands belonging to 62 temples was restored.

42. As stated above, steps are being taken statewide to find out and restore temple lands whose pattas are wrongfully issued to private individuals and wrongfully registered in the computerised Chitta and 'A' Register.

Appointment of retired Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Surveyors

43. To restore the pattas of the temple lands transferred wrongly in the name of private individuals, 2

District Revenue Officers have been appointed at Madurai and Coimbatore respectively. Apart from this, action has been taken to create posts of 5 District Revenue Officers. To speed up the work of the District Revenue Officers, 6 retired Deputy Collectors, 10 retired Tahsildars and 3 Surveyors have been appointed. The Government has ordered to appoint 7 more retired Tahsildars and 16 retired Surveyors on consolidated pay. During the year 2012-2013, 5 retired Tahsildars and 4 retired Surveyors have been additionally appointed as stated above to speed up the work related to restoration of pattas in the names of temples.

Removal of Encroachments

44. The Government of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** after assuming office, has taken action on encroachments of temple lands to the extent of 397.51 acres of land, 105.0164 grounds of sites and 48.1390 grounds of buildings; they were cleared and brought back to the possession of temples.

Regularising Group Encroachments

45. Steps were taken to regularize the persons who have encroached temple lands in groups and living there for more than 30 years as tenants subject to the following conditions:

- i. The land must have been utilized over 30 years for residential purpose only.
- ii. The fair rent fixed as per relevant Government Order should be agreed.
- iii. The fair rent has to be given effect from 01.07.1998
- iv. The rent due must be remitted in equal instalments in a period of 12 months.
- v. 10 months rent has to be paid as donation.

46. During 2012-2013, 1252 encroachers were regularized as tenants who had occupied 71.05 acres of land. No objection certificates were issued to them to avail facilities such as drinking water and electricity.

Annadanam scheme

47. “மண்டிணி ஞாலத்து வாழ்வோர்க் கெல்லாம்

உண்டி கொடுத்தோர் உயிர் கொடுத்தோரே” – மணிமேகலைக்

காப்பியம்

The finest among the schemes, the Annadanam Scheme was inaugurated on 23rd March 2002 at Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.**

48. This noble Scheme of providing Annadanam was implemented in 360 temples during the previous regime of **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.** During 2006-2011, this scheme was extended only for 2 temples.

49. During 2011-2012, this laudable scheme was extended further to 106 temples. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,** this scheme has been extended during the year 2012-2013 for 50 more temples, considering the inflow of devotees and their requirement. This scheme was revitalized through some corrective measures to improve the quality of food and service. Now, this scheme is being implemented in 518 temples to the appreciation of scholars and masses. Every day 34075 devotees are benefited and Rs. 6.85 lakhs is being spent per day.

Day long Annadanam

50. **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** graciously inaugurated the Day Long Annadanam Scheme at Srirangam, Arulmighu Aranganathaswamy Temple on 13.9.2012. Simultaneously, this scheme has been inaugurated at Palani, Arulmighu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple. 6200 devotees are being benefitted under this scheme and a sum of Rs. 1.24 lakhs spent daily. Devotees can have food at any time during the day. This scheme has won kudos from devotees.

Spiritual and moral classes

51. As desired by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, spiritual and moral classes will be conducted on all Saturdays in all important temples to make our children imbibe the high moral and ethical values enshrined in our ancient literature through stories which embody our cultural heritage and tradition. These children will be provided with snacks during such classes and awards will be distributed to the best children.

During the year 2012-2013, 8922 students have participated in the spiritual and moral classes at 380 temples. Among those students, prizes were distributed to the best students to honour them.

Special Poojas and Common Feasts

52. Every year Special poojas and Common feasts are being conducted in temples on Independence Day and Perarignar Anna Memorial Day inviting participation of the people from various communities without discrimination. During 2012-2013, Special Poojas and common feasts were conducted in 768 temples.

Elephant Rejuvenation Camps

53. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, Special Rejuvenation camps for Elephants were organized during 2003, 2004 and 2005 for the elephants maintained by the individuals and temples in a cool environment conducive to elephants. This camp approach given up during the past years was restored and conducted on 14.12.2011 for 48 days at Mudumalai Theppakkadu. During the year 2012-2013 this camp was organized on the banks of the Bhavani river near Thekkampatti Arulmighu Vanabadrakaliamman Temple at Mettupalayam in Coimbatore District. 34 Temple Elephants from Tamil Nadu and 1 elephant from a temple belonging to Pondicherry Union

Territory participated and underwent rejuvenation in the camp. The 10 elephants which were unable to participate in this camp were also given the same nutritious food and medicines as supplied in the camp for better physical and mental health. In this camp, training was given not only for elephants but also for the mahouts who were taught on safety and maintenance of elephants to keep them healthy. The Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 75 lakhs for this camp.

54. In tune with the sublime concept of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** reflected in the lines **"Like human beings all other living beings also deserve the same mercy and kindness"**, the elephant camp was organized well in a cool and natural environment suitable for the elephants.

Marriage Scheme for the Poor and Downtrodden

55. This noble Scheme of marriages for the poor and downtrodden people belonging to the Hindu religion was first launched in 1981 by the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. People belonging to Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes, Backward Classes and Most Backward

Classes benefitted under this Scheme. **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** performed the marriages of 1008 couples in 2002 and 1053 couples in 2003 at Tiruverkadu. Further, marriages were also conducted for 489 couples in a few temples. This noble Scheme was given up during the previous regime. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, during the year 2012-2013, marriages for 1006 couples have been conducted on 18.6.2012 at a venue near to Tiruverkadu temple in a fitting manner by providing 4 grams of Gold for Thirumangalyam and wedding gifts worth Rs. 10,000 each. A sum of Rs. 1.51 crore has been spent for this scheme.

Cable Cars

56. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, a Cable Car was first introduced at an estimate of Rs. 4 Cores in Palani Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple for the benefit of the devotees on 3rd November 2004. Following the appreciation received from the devotees for this cable car facility, it has been decided to provide one more international standard cable car for Palani and expression of interest called for

globally. Action is being taken to provide a new cable car for Sholinghur Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple and Karur, Ayyarmalai, Arulmighu Rathinagireeswarar Temple.

Battery Cars

57. The **Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated a 6 seater Battery car on June 19th 2011 at Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy Temple for the benefit of the differently abled and elders. Further, 10 Battery cars have been introduced in the following 8 temples.

Sl. No.	Temple Name	No. of Battery car
1.	Srirangam, Arulmigu Aranganathaswamy temple.	2
2.	Palani, Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy temple.	3
3.	Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple	1
4.	Tiruttani, Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple.	1
5.	Tiruvarur, Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy temple.	1
6.	Tiruvannamalai, Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple.	1
7.	Tiruvotriyur, Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy temple.	1

8.	Tiruvanaikkaval, Arulmigu Akhilandeswari sametha Jambukeswarar temple.	1
	Total	11

Tiruppani (Conservation, Restoration and Renovation)

58. **“Whosoever lays a brick for temple construction**

Will rule the world”

As per this proverbial saying, the most important task for this government is to renovate the historical, ancient temples, holy shrines glorified by the hymns of the Alwars and Nayanmars, village temples and temples located in the habitats of Adi Dravidar Communities.

59. Temple conservation, restoration and renovation is carried out based on the following financial sources.

- Public Donation
- Own funds of the temples.
- Diversion of surplus funds
- Government Grant

- Common Good Fund
- Temple Development fund
- Village Temple Renovation fund
- Temple renovation and Charitable fund
- Tiruppani by Donors themselves
- Renovation fund for Temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal people
- Finance Commission Fund

60. Wherever a donor volunteers to take up the responsibility of renovating temples, financial assistance is also provided by the department.

Donation

61. Renovations are carried out from the donations voluntarily contributed by industrialists, private institutions, wealthy persons, common public and persons having faith in divinity, spirituality and religious affinity. During 2012-2013, estimates for a value of Rs. 928.97 lakhs were sanctioned to carry out 132 works.

Temple Funds

62. Affluent temples carry out Tiruppani from their own surplus funds. During 2012-2013, Rs.96.36 crores were allotted from the temple funds for renovation of 273 temples.

Diversion of Funds

63. According to Section 36 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, the temples requiring financial assistance for renovation receive funds from the surplus funds of the affluent temples by way of diversion. During 2012-2013, financial assistance of Rs. 828.36 lakhs was sanctioned for 75 temples.

Government Grant

64. Every year, a Government Grant of Rs.3 crore is given for temple renovation. During 2012-2013, Government Grant of Rs. 3 crores was sanctioned for 45 temples.

Common Good Fund

65. Out of voluntary donations given by the individuals and the contributions made by the Hindu Religious Institutions, a separate fund was created namely "Common Good fund" in the name of the Commissioner. During 2012-

2013, Rs.11.69 crore have been sanctioned for renovation work in 204 temples.

Temple Development Fund

66. A corpus fund of Rs.8 Crores was created from the surplus funds of affluent temples for the development of temples. From the interest accruing from this corpus, financial assistance is rendered for the renovation of temples of ancient, historical significance. During the financial year of 2012-2013, Rs. 20 lakhs was given to 2 temples under this scheme.

Village Temples Renovation Fund

67. Small village temples under the control of the Department are provided with financial assistance for temple renovations under the "Village Temple Renovation Scheme" created for this purpose. A corpus of Rs.2 Crores was created by diversion from the surplus funds of Palani, Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy temple. During the year 2012-2013 a sum of Rs. 1.28 crores has been disbursed to 256 temples at the enhanced rate of Rs. 50,000/- per temple as ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.**

Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund

68. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** created a corpus namely, "Chief Minister's Temple Renovation and Maintenance fund" on August 5th of 1991. **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** donated Rs. 1,00,008/- towards this fund. Donations were received from philanthropists, industrialists and the General Public. This fund is now called as "Temple Renovation and Charitable Fund." During 2012-2013, Rs.65.24 lakhs will be disbursed for the renovation and maintenance of Kanniyakumari District Temples and the renovation of Arulmighu Sanjeevarayar Temple, Ayyangarkulam at Kancheepuram.

Donor Works

69. It is common practice that donors voluntarily carry out the temple renovations from their own funds under the supervision of the Department. During 2012-2013, 72 such renovation works were sanctioned at an estimate of Rs. 17.56 crores.

Renovation For The Temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal community

70. A financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/- per temple is provided for the renovation of temples in the habitations of Adi Dravida and Tribal communities from out of the funds received from the surplus funds of the affluent temples. Since the amount per temple is insufficient for executing the scheme, the financial assistance was raised to Rs. 50,000/ per temple and Rs. 1.50 crore was given for the renovation of 300 temples, during 2011-2012 and during the year 2012-2013, Rs. 1.62 crores was given to 324 temples.

Finance Commission Fund

71. The Central Finance Commission is rendering financial assistance for renovating ancient temples without changing their heritage value. During 2012-2013, Rs. 22.50 Crores from the 13th Finance Commission was sanctioned for the renovation of 43 temples without changing their heritage value.

Tourism Fund

72. The temples in Tamil Nadu are the major tourist attractions. For the welfare of the devotees and tourists visiting the temples, the temple administration and the Tourism Department jointly provide basic amenities such as toilets, bath rooms, drinking water, dormitories, information

centres, approach roads, high mast lamps, Cloak rooms, provision of lawns and parking facilities.

Uzhavarapani

73. The ancient temples in Tamil Nadu are proudly standing as historical monuments having tall towers, beautiful domes, large corridors and huge walls. It is our bounden duty to preserve and protect them. The vegetation growing on these old constructions are heavily damaging them. During 2012-2013, the traditional method of cleansing the temple premises called "Uzhavarapani" once launched by Saint Appar Adigal one of the four leading exponents of the Saiva School was re-launched with a view to introduce the spirit of service. Through this programme, eradication of weeds and vegetation was carried out in 640 temples. Further, this programme is to be implemented continuously in temples.

Consecration of Temples

74. According to Agama Shastras (texts), every temple has to be re-consecrated once in 12 years. On this basis, temples are classified into the following four categories for renovation and consecrations.

- Ancient Temples glorified by the hymns of Alwars and Nayanmars.
- Temples historically popular and having tourist significance.
- Temples popular for fulfilling the wishes and vows of the devotees.
- Small Temples located in the villages and in the habitations of Adi Dravidas and Scheduled Tribes.

75. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, Kumbabishekams have been performed in 1906 temples during 2012-2013. This scheme will be executed every year with special concentration.

Renovation of Temple Tanks and Rain Water Harvesting

76. There are 2359 temple tanks located in 1586 temples across the state. Out of them, 1068 tanks were identified for repairs and renovations. 528 temple tanks have been renovated by this Government. The remaining temple tanks will be repaired and renovated shortly.

77. The temple tanks will be protected as per this scheme by the following measures:

- Clearing the encroachments in and around the temple tanks.
- Putting up the compound wall around the tanks.
- Deepening and desilting the temple tanks.
- Re-laying the steps of the temple tanks.
- Providing facility for the inflow of rainwater into temple tanks and overflow channel for surplus water.

Revival Of Kaala Poojas In Ancient Temples

78. This scheme was evolved with a view to set right the setbacks in the performance of Kaala Poojas at temples that are glorified by the hymns of Alwars and Nayanmars. This scheme provides means for performing Kaala Poojas at temples utilizing the surplus funds of the affluent temples. Under this scheme, 50 needy temples received financial assistance from the funds of 19 affluent temples during 2001-2006. This scheme was not in operation during 2006-2011. During 2011-2012, this noble scheme was revived for assisting 39 needy temples for conduct full-fledged kaala poojas and continued during the year 2012-2013 by providing Rs. 12.38 lakhs every year.

Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme

79. This scheme was launched in 1986 to perform Oru Kaala Pooja in temples which were not in a position to conduct even pooja once daily. To enable the public to participate in this scheme, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** during 1993 issued an order that when a contribution of Rs. 2,500 is received from the public, Rs. 20,000 from the surplus funds of the affluent temples, Rs.1,300/- from the temple renovation and charitable endowment funds and Rs.1,200/- from the temple welfare fund will be contributed thus making a total of Rs.25,000/- to be deposited as fixed deposit under this scheme. The interest accruing from the deposit is arranged to be utilized for the conducting Oru Kaala Pooja for the specified temples. Under this scheme 11,931 temples benefitted.

80. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** considering that the interest amount from the deposit of Rs. 25,000 is not sufficient, has ordered for the increase of the permanent deposit (corpus) to Rs. 1,00,000 for every temple. This scheme has been carried out by an allotment of an 'one time government grant' of Rs. 59.48 crores and by allotting Rs. 30 crores diverted from the surplus fund of 41 affluent temples.

81. Consequently, the corpus created for every temple has since been raised from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000 ensuring the performance of Oru Kala Pooja every day in 11,931 temples without any break or setback. Further 539 temples are going to be additionally benefitted under this scheme. At present, if any member of the public contributes Rs. 10,000/- for any needy temple, the department will contribute Rs. 90,000/- and Rs. 1 lakh corpus will be created in the name of such temple to ensure the performance of orukala pooja.

Maintenance Of Temple Cars

82. There are 989 wooden cars in 809 temples under the control of this Department. A corpus of Rs. 11.17 crores was created for the renovation of temple cars from the surplus funds of affluent temples in February 2006. After this Government assumed office, 78 temple cars have been repaired, renovated and put in use.

83. After this Government assumed office, the road blocks in the renovation of temple cars were removed by raising both the labour charges fixed for artisans and the cost of wood. As a result of this, renovation of temple cars has

been expedited and the remaining 225 cars will also be repaired soon.

84. In order to safeguard the temple cars, steps have been taken to provide roofs which are fire proof, provision of iron wheels and steel axles and to insure both the cars as well as the persons who are engaged in dragging the car.

85. To avoid untoward incidents during temple car festivals, guidelines for safety have been implemented.

Temple With Gold Cars And Silver Cars

86. It is a customary practice that the devotees visit temples to pull the Golden or Silver Car mounted with the processional deity to fulfill their vows.

87. At present there are 51 temples with Golden Cars and 40 temples with Silver Cars.

Temples with golden cars	
1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy temple, Poonga Nagar, Chennai.
3.	Arulmigu Vadapalaniandavar temple, Vadapalani.

4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Tiruttani.
5.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman temple, Tiruverkadu.
6.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy temple, Swamimalai.
7.	Arulmigu Vaithyanathaswamy temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.
8.	Arulmigu Vinayagar temple, Echanari, Coimbatore.
9.	Arulmigu Mariamman temple, Samayapuram, Trichy.
10.	Arulmigu Meenakshisundareswarar temple, Madurai.
11.	Arulmigu Sankaranarayanawamy temple, Sankarankoil.
12.	Arulmigu Subramania swamy temple, Tiruchendur.
13.	Arulmigu Vanamamalai Perumal temple, Nanguneri.
14.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman temple, Kancheepuram.
15.	Arulmigu Balamurugan temple, Rethinagiri.
16.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Sivanmalai.
17.	Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar temple, Mylapore.
18.	Arulmigu Kamakshiamman temple, Mangadu.
19.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy temple, Rameswaram.
20.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman temple, Siruvachur.
21.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Maruthamalai.
22.	Arulmigu Bannarimariamman temple, Bannari.
23.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai.
24.	Arulmigu Maruntheeswarar temple, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai.
25.	Arulmigu Velayuthaswamy temple, Thindalmalai, Erode.
26.	Arulmigu Ananda Padmanabhaswamy temple, Adayar,

	Chennai.
27.	Arulmigu Karunellinathaswamy temple, Tiruthangal, Sivakasi.
28.	Arulmigu Mundagakanniamman temple, Mylapore, Chennai.
29.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi swamy temple, Uppiliappankoil, Kumbakonam.
30.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Tiruparankundram.
31.	Arulmigu Mariamman temple, Karur.
32.	Arulmigu Dandumariamman temple, Coimbatore.
33.	Arulmigu Chandrachudeswarar temple, Hosur.
34.	Arulmigu Jambukeswarar and Akilandeswariamman temple, Tiruvanaikaval.
35.	Arulmigu Aanjaneyaswamy temple, Namakal.
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Pachaimalai, Gopichettipalayam.
37.	Arulmigu Vettudaiyar Kaliyamman temple, Ariyakurchi.
38.	Arulmigu Nelliappar Kanthimathiamman temple, Tirunelveli.
39.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagamman temple, Nattarasankottai, Sivagangai.
40.	Arulmigu Arthanareeswarar temple, Tiruchengode, Namakkal.
41.	Arulmigu Vekkalamman temple, Uraiyur, Trichy.
42.	Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar temple, Salem.
43.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman temple, Salem.
44.	Arulmigu Murugan temple, Solaimalai Mandapam

	(Alagarkoil), Madurai.
45.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha swamy temple, Sholingar, Vellore.
46.	Arulmigu Thyagarajaswamy temple, Tiruvotriyur, Tiruvallur.
47.	Arulmigu Kottaimariamman temple, Dindigul.
48.	Arulmigu Angalaparameswari temple, Melmalaiyanur, Villpuram.
49.	Arulmigu Kondathukaliamman temple, Pariyur, Erode.
50.	Arulmigu Kandaswamy temple, Tiruporur, Chenglepet, Kancheepuram.
51.	Arulmigu Masaniamman temple, Anamalai, Coimbatore.

Temples having silver cars	
1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy temple, Palani.
2.	Arulmigu Subramania swamy temple, Tiruchendur.
3.	Arulmigu Meenakshisundareswar temple, Madurai.
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Tiruttani.
5.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy temple, Rameswaram.
6.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai.
7.	Arulmigu Swaminathaswamy temple, Swamimalai.
8.	Arulmigu Nellaiyappar and Kanthimathiamman temple, Tirunelveli.

9.	Arulmigu Padaleeswarar temple, Tirupathiripuliyur.
10.	Arulmigu Vaithyanathaswamy temple, Vaitheeswarankoil.
11.	Arulmigu Chattanathaswamy temple, Sirkali.
12.	Arulmigu Mayuranathaswamy temple, Mayiladuthurai.
13.	Arulmigu Mariamman , Angalamman temple, Pollachi.
14.	Arulmigu Prasanna Vinayagar temple, Udumalaipettai.
15.	Arulmigu Devikarumariamman temple, Tiruverkadu.
16.	Arulmigu Kolanjiappar temple, Manavalanallur.
17.	Arulmigu Ekambaranathar temple, Kancheepuram.
18.	Arulmigu Kamatchiamman temple, Kancheepuram.
19.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy temple, Park Town, Chennai.
20.	Arulmigu Tiruvenkadamudayan temple, Ariyakurichi.
21.	Arulmigu Subramania swamy temple, Kundrakudi.
22.	Arulmigu Meenakshisundareswarar temple, Keelasevelpatti.
23.	Arulmigu Kannudaiya Nayagiamman temple, Natarasankottai.
24.	Arulmigu Koppudaya Nayagiamman temple, Karaikudi.
25.	Arulmigu Nagarasivan (A) Meenakshisundareswarar temple, Devakottai.
26.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman temple, Konnaiyur, Tirumayam.
27.	Arulmigu Aruthra Kapaleeswarar temple, Erode.
28.	Arulmigu Sangameswarar temple, Bhavani.
29.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar temple, Bhavani.
30.	Arulmigu Balasubramaniaswamy temple, Aayakudi,

	Tirunelveli.
31.	Arulmigu Madurakaliamman temple, Thottiyam.
32.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Neyveli.
33.	Arulmigu Veyuluku uganda vinayagar temple, Uppur, Ramanathapuram.
34.	Arulmigu Soundararajaperumal temple, Dindigul.
35.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Kumarakottam, Kancheepuram.
36.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple, Ettukudi, Nagapattinam.
37.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar and Dandayuthapaniswamy temple, Chettikulam, Perambalur.
38.	Arulmigu Muthumariamman temple, Karaikudi, Sivagangai.
39.	Arulmigu Ekambareswarar Temple, Mint, Chennai.
40.	Arulmigu Katchabeswarar Temple, Kancheepuram.

Basic Amenities

Drinking water

88. Steps have been taken for providing safe drinking water for the devotees visiting temples. During 2012-2013,

62 temples were provided with safe drinking water at a cost of Rs. 86 lakhs.

Modern Toilet Facilities

89. Steps have been taken to provide separate modern toilet facilities for Men and Women visiting temples. During 2012-2013, construction of 87 toilets for Men and 95 toilets for Women at a cost of Rs. 2.22 crores was undertaken in 40 temples.

Facilities for stay

90. During 2012-2013, Cottages, rooms, dormitories, cloak rooms and parking lots in 2 temples at an estimate of Rs. 92 lakhs were constructed and dedicated to the devotees visiting temples.

Temple Cleanliness

91. In order to maintain the cleanliness in the temples, the house keeping of the temple premises has been outsourced. As a result of this, cleaning in 110 temples was

undertaken by outsourcing, which has resulted in a high level of cleanliness. Steps have been taken to extend the scheme to the other temples also where large number of devotees and tourists visit.

Distribution of Sarees and Dhotis

92. In important temples, cotton sarees and dhoties received as offerings are distributed to the elderly persons, destitutes and widows on Independence Day and Arignar Anna's Memorial Day on the occasion of common feast. During 2012-2013, 1105 persons were benefited by this scheme. Steps are being taken to increase the beneficiaries annually during the above said days.

Safety of Icons and Valuables

93. To safeguard the icons, jewels and valuables of the temples, safety measures such as, installation of Burglar Alarm, Tell Tale Clocks, Inner Locking Systems, fixing Iron Gates, Closed Circuit Television, appointment of Night Watch Men and appointment of personnel from the temple protection force have been adopted in 1200 temples.

94. In order to protect the valuable Icons of the temples "Icon Centres" have been built up. Icons of temples having inadequate protections are being safeguarded therein. Provision has been made to take out the idols of temples from the centre for conducting festivals and return for safe custody after festival. Poojas are performed for all the idols at the centres.

Details of Icon centres

1.	Icon Centre, Tiruvarur (Arulmighu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple campus)
2.	Arulmighu Akilandeshwari and Jambukeshwarar Temple, Tiruvanaikkaval, Trichy.
3.	Arulmighu Nellaiappar Kanthimathiamman Temple, Tirunelveli.
4.	Arulmighu Sukavaneswarar Temple, Salem.
5.	Arulmighu Muthumariamman Temple, Gandhinagar, Vellore.
6.	Arulmighu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai
7.	Arulmighu Ekambareswarar Temple, Kanchipuram.
8.	Arulmighu Padaleeswarar Temple, Tiruppadiripuliyur, Cuddalore.

9.	Arulmighu Nageswaraswamy Temple, Kumbakonam.
10.	Arulmighu Patteeswaraswamy Temple, Perur, Coimbatore.
11.	Arulmighu Brahadambal Temple, Tirugokarnam, Pudukottai.
12.	Arulmighu Tiruvappudaiyar Temple, Chellur, Madurai
13.	Arulmighu Sundarraja Perumal Temple, Sivagangai.
14.	Arulmighu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvarur (Additional centre)
15.	Arulmighu Thiyagarajaswamy Temple, Tiruvotriyur.
16.	Arulmighu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tiruttani.
17.	Arulmighu Kalamman Temple, Adhiyamankottai, Dharmapuri.
18.	Arulmighu Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Villupuram.
19.	Arulmighu Nachiyar (Andal) Temple, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar.

Temple Protection Force

95. A separate wing namely "Temple Protection Force" has been formed for protecting the icons, jewels, hundials and valuables in the temples. Sanction was accorded for appointing 1000 Grade II Police Constables and 3000 Ex-servicemen in this force. During 2005-2006, 1000 Grade-II

Police Constables and 2751 Ex-servicemen were serving in the temple protection force. Since adequate interest in the safety of temples was not shown in the past years, this number has come down to 703 Police Constables and 1874 Ex-Servicemen. To compensate this, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has raised the monthly consolidated pay from Rs. 1,500/- to Rs. 5,000/- to the Ex-Servicemen in the temple protection force.

Educational Institutions

96. With the social object of inculcating culture, pious outlook etc. from a young age, religious and general education is imparted in the educational institutions run by temples. The temple administration along with their other obligations and responsibilities are running Patasalas, Colleges and schools.

Institution		No.
1.	Arts, Culture and Science Colleges	5
2.	Polytechnic College	1
3.	Higher Secondary Schools	15
4.	High Schools	8

5.	Middle Schools	2
6.	Elementary Schools	9
7.	Matriculation School	1
8.	CBSE School	1
9.	Nadaswaram and Thavil – Musical Training Schools	2
10.	Veda Agama Patasalas	3
11.	Thevara Patasalas	2
12.	School for the Deaf and Dumb	1
	Total	50

List of Educational Institutions

Arts And Science Colleges

1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts and Culture College, Palani, Dindigul District.
2.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani, Dindigul District.
3.	Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Kuttralam, Tirunelveli District.
4.	Sri Devi Kumari College for Women, Kuzhithurai, Kanyakumari District.
5.	Poompuhar College, Melaiyur, Nagapattinam District.

Polytechnic college

1.	Arulmigu Palaniandavar Polytechnic College, Palani, Dindigul District.
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Higher Secondary schools

1.	Arulmigu Periyanyagamman Girls Higher Secondary School, Kovilur, Muthupettai, Tiruvarur District.
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswami Tirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Maruthamalai, Vadavalli, Coimbatore District.
3.	Arulmigu Vazhaithottathaiyan Higher Secondary School, Ayyampalayam, Samalapuram, Somanur, Tiruppur District .
4.	Arulmigu Perur Santhalinga Adigalar Higher Secondary School, Perur, Coimbatore District.
5.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai District.
6.	Arulmigu Andavar Subramaniaswamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District.
7.	Arulmigu Thirumalai Kumaraswami Devasthanam Girls Higher Secondary School, Kutralam, Tirunelveli District.
8.	Devasthanam Higher Secondary School, Mandaikadu, Kanyakumari District.
9.	Sri Kandimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli District.
10.	T. Venugopal Chetty Higher Secondary School, Chennai,

	Chennai District.
11.	Hindu Higher Secondary School, Chennai, Chennai District.
12.	Arulmigu Parvathavarthini Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.
13.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Tirukkoil Higher Secondary School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District.
14.	Sri Sivapparakasa Swamigal Higher Secondary School, Mayilam, Dindivanam, Vilupuram District.
15.	Arulmigu Parasakthi Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Kuttralam, Tirunelveli District.

High Schools

1.	Arulmigu Anjuvattathamman Girls High School, Kilvelur, Tiruvarur District.
2.	Arulmigu Kaliyugavaratharaja Perumal Girls High School, Kallankurichi, Ariyalur District.
3.	Arulmigu Swetharanyeswarar Tirukkoil Girls High School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District.
4.	Arulmigu Sundarraja High School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District.
5.	Devaswom High School, Thirparappu, Kanyakumari District.
6.	Sri Thirugnana Sambandar High School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam District.

7.	Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Devasthanam High School, Chennai, Chennai District.
8.	Devaswom High School, Kulithurai, Kanyakumari District.

Middle Schools

1.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Middle School, Tiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam District.
2.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Ambalavana Desigar Middle School, Tiruvavaduthurai, Nagapattinam District.

Elementary Schools

1.	Swami Nellaiyappar Anbu Asramam Elementary School, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District.
2.	Sankaranarayananaswami Tirukkoil Elementary School, Sankarankoil, Tirunelveli District.
3.	Sri Meikandar Elementary School, Tiruvenkadu, Nagapattinam District.
4.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Aided Elementary School, Palani, Dindigul District.
5.	Tiruvavaduthurai Adeenam Elementary School, Tiruvidaimaruthur, Thanjavur District.
6.	Tirugnanasambandar Elementary School, Dharmapuram, Nagapattinam District.
7.	Arulmigu Sundarraja Elementary School, Azhagarkoil, Madurai

	District.
8.	Anjugam Elementary School, Kodambakkam, Chennai District.
9.	Padamavathi Kannapiran Elementary School, Otteri, Chennai District.

Matriculation School	
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1.	Palaniandavar Matriculation School, Palani, Dindigul District.
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CBSE School	
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1.	Parasakthi Vidyalaya, Kuttralam, Tirunelveli District.
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Nathaswaram And Thavil Training School	
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1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindugul District.
2.	Arulmigu Naganathaswami Tirukkovil, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District.

Veda Agama Patasalas	
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1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District.
2.	Arulmigu Subramanyaswami Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District.
3.	Arulmigu Vaithiyanathaswami Tirukkoil, Vaitheeswarankoil, Nagapattinam District.

Thevaram Training Schools	
1.	Dharmapura Adeenam, Dharmapuram, Mayiladuturai, Nagapattinam District.
2.	Maruthanayaga Mudaliar Annapoorani Ammal Trust, Coimbatore, Coimbatore District.
School For Hearing Impaired	
1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District.

Social Welfare Institutions:

97. Temples are also a Social Welfare Unit apart from being a place of worship. For example, they also run Hospitals, Home for Mentally Disordered, Karunai Illangal and Old Age Homes. The details are as follows:

	No.
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Social Welfare Institutions		
1.	"Karunai Illangal"	33
2.	Home for mentally disordered	1
3.	Old Age Homes	2
4.	Siddha Hospitals	7
5.	Allopathy Hospitals	2
	Total	45

Karunai Illangal

98. Karunai Illangal were started in financially affluent temples under the control of this Department to provide assistance such as food, shelter and education apart from showing love and care for the destitute children. There are 33 Karunai Illangal functioning in 30 temples, 22 for boys and 11 for girls. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** ordered full fee exemption for the higher studies of the Karunai Illam students who have completed +2 studies in the Educational Institutions run by the temples and go for higher studies in Colleges under the control of the Department and 50% concession to those in other Educational Institutions. The funds will be provided by the temples.

99. During 2012-2013, necessary basic amenities have been upgraded for the children in the Karunai Illangal.

DETAILS OF KARUNAI ILLANGAL

1.	Arulmigu Devi Karumariamman Tirukkoil, Tiruverkadu, Tiruvallur District
2.	Arulmigu Subramania Swami Tirukkoil, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District
3.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapani Swami Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District
4.	Arulmigu Mariamman Tirukkoil, Samayapuram, Tiruchy District
5.	Arulmigu Meenakshi Sundareswarar Tirukkoil, Madurai, Madurai District
6.	Arulmigu Subramania Swami Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District
7.	Arulmigu Ramanatha Swami Tirukkoil, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.
8.	Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Tirukkoil, Vadapalani, Chennai District
9.	Arulmigu Subramania Swami Tirukkoil, Marudamalai, Coimbatore District
10.	Arulmigu Bannari Mariamman Tirukkoil, Bannari, Erode District
11.	Arulmigu Kallazhagar Tirukkoil, Azhagarkoil, Madurai District.
12.	Arulmigu Lakshmi Narasimha Swami Tirukkoil, Sholingar, Vellore District

13.	Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Tirukkoil, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvannamalai District
14.	Arulmigu Swaminatha Swami Tirukkoil, Swamimalai, Thanjavur District
15.	Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar Tirukkoil, Salem, Salem District
16.	Arulmigu Vanabadra Kaliyamman Tirukkoil, Tekkampatti, Coimbatore District.
17.	Arulmigu Vazhathottathu Ayyan Tirukkoil, Iyampalayam, Tiruppur District.
18.	Arulmigu Subramania Swami Tirukkoil, Tirupparankundram, Madurai District.
19.	Arulmigu Venkatachalapathi Tirukkoil, Oppiliappan koil, Thanjavur District
20.	Arulmigu Naganatha Swami Tirukkoil, Tirunageswaram, Thanjavur District
21.	Arulmigu Magudeswara Swamy Veerananarayana Perumal Tirukkoil, Kodumudi, Erode District
22.	Arulmigu Vianayagar Tirukkoil, Eachanari, Coimbatore District
23.	Arulmigu Patteeswara Swami Tirukkoil, Perur, Coimbatore District
24.	Arulmigu Masaniamman Tirukkoil, Anaimalai, Coimbatore District
25.	Arulmigu Koppudaiyanayagi Amman Tirukkoil, Karaikudi, Sivagangai District
26.	Arulmigu Subramani Swami Tirukkoil, Sivanmalai, Erode District

27.	Arulmigu Adaikalam Kaatha Ayyanar & Badrakaliamman Tirukkoil, Madapuram, Sivagangai District.
28.	Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Kanthimathi Amman Tirukkoil, Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli District
29.	Arulmigu Muthukumara Swami Devasthanam, Chennai, Chennai District
30	Arulmigu Muthumariamman Tirukkoil, Thayamangalam, Sivagangai District.

Home For Mentally Disordered

1.	Arulmigu Prasanna Venkatas Perumal Tirukkoil, Gunaseelam, Tiruchirapalli District.
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Oldage Home

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani, Dindigul District
2.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Temple, Tirupparakundram, Madurai District

Siddha Hospitals

1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindigul District.
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2.	Arulmigu Vadapalani Andavar Tirukkoil, Vadapalani, Chennai District.
3.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Marudamalai, Coimbatore District.
4.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District.
5.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tiruparankundram, Madurai District.
6.	Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy Tirukkoil, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi District.
7.	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Tirukkoil, Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.
Allopathy Hospitals	
1.	Arulmigu Dandayuthapaniswamy Tirukkoil, Palani, Dindugul District.
2.	Arulmigu Karpagavinayagar Tirukkoil, Pillaiyarpatti, Sivagangai District.

Basic amenities for Schools and Colleges

100. A corpus fund of Rs. 5 Crores transferred from the affluent temples has been created for providing basic amenities for Schools and Colleges functioning under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The interest accrued from the corpus fund is used as financial grant for providing facilities such as buildings, laboratories,

libraries, computers, drinking water and toilet facilities in the Schools and Colleges run by the temples.

101. During 2012-2013, Rs. 31.20 lakhs were allocated from the corpus fund and an assistance of Rs.17.29 crores from the funds of affluent temples was allocated to 5 Educational Institutions.

Goshalas

102. Integrated Goshalas were formed in 4 places viz., Palani, Tiruchendur, Srirangam and Rameswaram to maintain cattle offered as Kanikkai (offering).

103. Surplus Cattle received by the temples as donation are given free to the Women Self Help Groups and to Archakas and Poosaris working in the temples. Special efforts will be taken to maintain the Goshalas of the temples.

Temples and Tamil

104. Alwars, Nayanmars and Holy Sages in reverence eulogized the deities wherever in Tamil they went. The devotional songs of such savants such as Thevaram, Thiruvagasam, Thirumanthiram, Thiruppugazh, Nalayira Divya Prabandam have contributed significantly to make the Tamil language to flourish. To perform poojas in Tamil Potri books (Archana books) have been published.

Festivals of Saints and Savants

Sekkizhar Vizha

105. Sekkizhar Festival is celebrated as a Government function every year at his birth place, Kundrathur near Chennai by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Mylapore Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple celebrates "Panniru Thirumurai Vizha" and "Sekkizhar Vizha" for 12 days every year during the month of August.

Tirugnana Sambandar Isai vizha

106. "Tirugnana Sambandar Isai Vizha" is celebrated every year at Arulmigu Vedhagiriswarar Temple, Thirukazhukundram, to honour Saint Thirugnana

Sambhandar, one of the religious savants. The expenses for the festival are met out from the Commissioner's Common Good Fund.

Avvai vizha

107. A temple for the Tamil Poetess and Savant Avvaiyar is situated at Thulasiyapattinam Village, Vedaranyam, Nagapattinam District in the temple premises of Arulmigu Viswanathaswamy Thirukoil. Avvayar Vizha is celebrated every year in the month of Panguni on Sathayam Star day.

Thayumanavar vizha

108. Thayumanava Adigal gave prime place for philosophy in all his divine verses was attracted by Mouna Gurusamy of Thirumoolar lineage on his way back after worshipping Dakshinamoorthi at Arulmigu Thayumanavasamy Temple, Malaikottai, Trichy. Every year a festival of Thayumanavar Adigal, is celebrated at Arulmigu Thayumanavasamy Temple at Malaikottai, Tiruchirappalli.

Thiruvalluvar vizha

109. **Thiruvalluvar vizha** is celebrated in Mylapore, Arulmigu Thiruvalluvar Temple on Thiruvalluvar Day every year on the 2nd day of Tamil month "Thai" believed to be the birthday of the Divine Poet Thiruvalluvar. On this occasion oratorical, recital and essay competitions are conducted among the pupils and prizes are distributed. Further discourses and debates are also conducted.

Arunagirinadhar Vizha

110. "**Arulalar Arunagirinadhar Mukthipperu Vizha**" is celebrated in Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai to honour Saint Arunagirinadhar, on "Kettai" star in the month of Avani every year. He is believed to have attained salvation that day.

Chenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha

111. "**Chenkatchozha Nayanar Vizha**" is celebrated at Arulmigu Jambukeswarar and Akilandeswari Temple, Thiruvanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli every year on "Sathayam" star in the month of Masi, the birthday of Chenkatchozha, one among the 63 Nayanmars.

Festival of Alwars

112. On "Thiruvonam" star in the month of Aippasi, the birth star of Poigai Alwar, 'Alwars Festival' for 12 Alwars is celebrated in Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam, Trichy District.

Paavai Vizha

113. Annually during the Tamil month of Margazhi conduct of recitation competition in Thirupavai and Thiruvempavai is in vogue at temples. During the year 2012-2013, action has been taken to conduct the competition in the district level apart from the competitions held usually in individual temples. Due to this action, 4309 students participated in 32 districts and prizes were distributed for 900 students.

Tamil New Year Day

114. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** by amendment of an enactment restored the customary practice followed by the Tamil people from days of yore recognizing the first day of Chithirai month

as the Tamil New Year day on 13.4.2012. This was celebrated by Tamils spread throughout the world.

115. Special Poojas, special Annadhanam, religious discourses and cultural programmes were conducted in all the temples on 14.4.2013. The temples were illuminated and decorated with Plantain tree and Mango leaves. Reading of Panchangam (traditional Tamil almanac) was also done on that day.

(S)Thalavaralaru and (S)Thalapuranam

116. Thalavaralaru (History of temples) and Thalapuranam (legends of temples) of ancient temples are published enabling the public to know the heritage, history, importance, puranas, architecture, inscriptions and importance of worship of the temples concerned. For other temples pamphlets are printed and published for enlightening the people on the importance of their worship. Steps were taken to remove the slackness that had crept in by re-publishing and re-writing (S)Thalavaralaru and (S)Thalapuranam books.

Pilgrim Guide

117. Earlier Pilgrim guides along with essential details were regularly published about various temples located in and around the towns of Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Trichy, Pudukottai, Karur, Perambalur, Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Coimbatore, Nilgris, Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Thirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tuticorin, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram. This activity was abandoned in the interim period. Now, steps have been taken to revive the above work. These books serve as important guides to devotees and tourists. Therefore, they are being republished and new guide books released in several districts.

Thirukoil Monthly

118. A monthly magazine namely Thirukoil is being published since 1958 by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Now, this magazine is elegantly published with noteworthy articles by eminent writers.

Publishing Agama Books and Other Books in Tamil

119. In order to facilitate everyone to understand the Agama Shastra books, which are in Sanskrit, they are translated in Tamil and published. In the first phase, the books "Uthara Kamika Agamam", Alaya Nirmana Bhimbalakshana Silpa Nool" and "Kumara Thantram" have been translated in Tamil and published. Further, the Tamil books like "Indhu Matha Inaippu Vilakkam" and "Saivamum Vainavamum" have been reprinted and published. Steps will be taken for reprinting such books and publish new books as per need.

Chartered Engineers

120. In order to avoid delay in the preparation of estimates for renovation works of temples, retired engineers of the Public Works Department and Highways Department have been approved as panel engineers. The approved panel engineers prepare drawings and estimates necessary for the renovation of temples.

Sthapathis

121. To ensure that the temple renovations are carried out in accordance with the standards prescribed in Agama and Shilpa Shastra, persons practicing this art, learnt traditionally from their ancestors and those possessing a degree or a diploma in sculptural arts have been approved as Sthapathis.

Refresher Training Course

122. For the Archakas, Bhattachariars and Oduvars to do their work efficiently, a Refresher Course Scheme was started in the year 1991. Till 2002, 488 persons have undergone training under the scheme. This Scheme was abandoned in the past years. The six week refresher course training has been revived and 1011 employees were benefitted during the year 2011-2012. During the year 2012-2013, the six week refresher course training was given and 1459 employees were benefited. This scheme will be continued every year.

Training on Human values

123. It is proposed to train all employees including Archakas to serve the devotees respecting their religious sentiments. Accordingly in the year 2012-2013, training on human values was given to 3359 employees at 18 centres. This training will be continued every year.

Appointment of Musicians

124. It is customary to play auspicious music in temples during festivals. Considering the decline in such service for want of sufficient fund in ancient temples which are praised by Alwars and Nayanmars in their Hymns, a corpus fund of Rs. 1 crore has been deposited for enabling payment of Musicians recruited for playing Nathaswaram, Thavil and Taalam instruments at a monthly salary of Rs. 1,500/, Rs. 1,000/- and Rs. 750/- respectively.

Welfare Schemes for the Temple Employees

125. Different categories of Employees are working in temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. The welfare schemes available for temple employees are listed below:

Welfare Schemes	
1.	Employees Provident Fund Scheme.
2.	Departmental Pension scheme.
3.	Family Benefit Fund scheme.
4.	Special Provident Fund and Gratuity scheme.
5.	Temple Employees Welfare Fund scheme.
6.	Pension Scheme for Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanar, Arayars, Divya Prabandam reciters and Musicians.
7.	Advance for Marriage, Festival and for purchase of Vehicle.
8.	Appointment on compassionate grounds.
9.	Kudamuzhukku incentive.
10.	Additional incentive for annual festivals
11.	Pongal Ex-gratia payment
12.	Financial assistance for the Education for the Children of the Temple Employees.
13.	Providing Uniforms and Identity cards for the Temple Employees.
14.	Computer training for Temple Employees.
15.	Providing free Bicycles for the Archakas / Poosaris of the temples where Oru Kala Pooja is performed.

Family Benefit Fund

126. This Scheme was introduced to help the heirs of the temple employees dying in harness. A corpus fund of Rs. 15 crores has been created for the implementation of this scheme. In this scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh is granted for the heirs of the deceased. During 2012-2013, a sum of Rs. 121.85 lakhs has been disbursed to 119 legal heirs.

Special Provident Fund

127. This Scheme was introduced for the welfare of the employees of temples whose annual income is Rs. 1 lakh and above. A corpus fund of Rs. 50 lakhs has been created for this Scheme from out of the surplus fund of the affluent temples. An amount of Rs. 5000 is disbursed as gratuity under this Scheme along with the total subscription paid by the retiring employee during his service. During 2012-2013, a sum of Rs. 3.42 lakhs has been disbursed to 70 retired employees from the corpus fund.

Temple Employees Welfare Fund Schemes

128. This scheme has been created for the employees of temples where the annual income is less than Rs. 1,00,000 for employees of pay of less Rs.750/- p.m. A corpus fund of Rs.5 Crore from the surplus fund of temples has been created. The interest accrued from this corpus fund is being utilized for the disbursement of the arrears of salary to employees every year. During the year 2012-2013, 1132 employees in 871 temples have been disbursed a sum of Rs. 55.26 lakhs as arrears of salary.

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

129. The scheme of providing jobs on compassionate grounds to the legal heirs of temple employees dying in harness is in implementation in temples. During 2012-2013, 34 legal heirs were given employment.

Pension Scheme

A. Pension for Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham reciters and Musicians.

130. Archakas, Oduvars, Vedaparayanars, Arayars, Divya Prabandham reciters and Musicians who have served for 20 years in temples and attained 60 years of age were paid a monthly pension of Rs. 750/- from the Government funds through this Department.

131. The **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** has ordered to enhance the pension from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1000 per month. A sum of Rs. 14.49 lakhs is incurred as additional expenditure annually benefitting 442 employees. The lists of beneficiaries of this scheme is as follows:

S. No	categories of Artistes/pensioners	Number approved by Government	Total number of beneficiaries
1.	Oduvars	125	34
2.	Vedam, Prabandham and Arayars	59	9
3.	Musicians	125	62
4.	Archakas (Saivam and Vainavam)	691	337
	Total	1000	442

B) Village Poosaris Pension Scheme

132. The Government has sanctioned a monthly pension of Rs. 750 per month to Village Temple Poosaris who have served for more than 20 years in village temples which are not directly under the control of this Department and attained 60 years of age. Under this Scheme, 2819 Village Poosaris are being benefited.

C) Pension Scheme For Other Employees Serving in Temples

133. There are two types of Pension Schemes implemented since March 2006, for the temple employees.

i. Employees Provident Fund Scheme

134. This scheme is applicable to all employees working in temples. As per this Scheme, employees who have more than 10 years of service, subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, and will receive benefits like pension and family pension under this scheme.

ii. Departmental Pension Scheme

135. For the employees who have less than 10 years of service on the date of implementation of the Scheme (1.3.2006) and all employees working in the temples which are not affluent enough to subscribe to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, a Departmental Pension Scheme has been implemented in 2006.

136. For disbursing pension under the Departmental Pension Scheme, a corpus fund of Rs. 50 crores was created from the surplus funds of affluent temples and from the interest accrued on this corpus fund, pension of Rs. 800 is being disbursed monthly to the retired temple employees who are unable to get pension through the Employees Provident Fund Scheme.

137. During 2012-2013, 375 retired employees were sanctioned with pension and so far 3183 employees have been benefited under this scheme.

138. As ordered by the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma**, Departmental Pension Scheme benefits have been extended to those employees who retired prior to 1996, benefiting 100 more retired employees.

Educational Aids for the Children of Temple Employees

139. Financial assistance of 25% of the first year tuition fees is given to the son or daughter of the temple employee studying professional courses in a Government aided Educational Institution.

Village Poosaris Welfare Board

140. For Poosaris performing poojas in the village temples which are not under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, a separate Board namely "The Village Temple Poosarigal Welfare Board" has been constituted, through which the following benefits are provided.

Assistance provided under the welfare scheme		Amount
1.	For the purchase of spectacles	Rs.500/-
2.	For the Maternity/abortion expenses of poosari's wife or daughter	Rs.6000/-

3.	For the Higher Education of the Children of a poosari.	Rs.1000/- - Rs.6000/-
4.	For Poosari's Marriage	Rs. 3000/-
5.	For the marriage of poosari's son	Rs. 3000/-
4.	For the marriage of poosari's daughter	Rs. 5000
5.	For performing the last rites of any deceased member	Rs. 2000/-
6.	For their legal heir of the deceased member	Rs.15,000/-

Conclusion:

141. “எய்தற் கரியது இயைந்தக்கால் அந்நிலையே
செய்தற் கரிய செயல்”

As per the noble sayings of Saint Tiruvalluvar, the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi
Amma's golden age,

- With the high aim of integrating Religion with social welfare schemes, she has introduced Annadanam Scheme in 518 temples; in Srirangam and Palani she has provided Annadana Facility throughout the day.

- The elephants that were once the exhibits at the entrance of the big temples are made to attend the rejuvenation camp for certain days; it is due to her kindness for the animals .
- The ruined and neglected temples of the past are taken care of and necessary repairs and renovation are done to thousands of temples and kumbabhishekam is performed to several hundred temples to the satisfaction of all the believers.
- As our department that hails Valluvar's saying that 'Married life is Dharma (Aran)', we have arranged marriages for several thousand grooms and brides who are economically weak; Amma is kind enough to bless the couples with marriage gifts (Sree dhanam) .
- Aid to Schools and Patasalas that foster Vedas, Sivagamas, Thirumurais and Tamil music.
- Spiritual Lectures and discourses by learned scholars are arranged for the benefit of the public to mesh devotion with scientific temper.
- Training programmes are arranged periodically for Sivachariars, Bhattachariars and Village temple

poosaris so that they can properly perform their duties.

142. Especially, the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department aims at giving a practical shape under the able and experienced guidance of the **Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratachi Thalaivi Amma**, according to the saying of Saint Thayumanavar Swami,

“ Oh! Lord, We know no other thing than Wishing good and happiness to all.”

“ எல்லோரும் இன்புற்றிருக்க நினைப்பதுவே அல்லாமல்
வேறு ஒன்றும் அறியேன் பராபரமே”

M.S.M. Anandhan

Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable
Endowment Department