

## **CHAPTER – 7**

### **SOCIAL DEFENCE**

**7.1** The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) which has been ratified by the Government of India prescribes that the right to survival, right to protection, right to development and right to participation are the fundamental rights of children. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 envisages a set of procedures and establishment of various types of child care institutions to ensure child protection. The Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to provide the best possible opportunities for the overall growth and development of every child and as a result children are safe in the society.

The State of Tamil Nadu has consistently been ahead of other States in serving children and women in difficult circumstances and protection of their rights. In 1887, an approved school was established at Chengalpattu for addressing the needs of children left without shelter, destitute, abandoned and missing children. Subsequently, The Madras Children Act, 1920

was enacted for the care and protection of children and the management of residential care institutions. The State of Tamil Nadu is first in India for enacting a separate and exclusive legislation for children.

The Department of Social Defence is implementing two important legislations in the State, namely the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 for children and women respectively.

The Child Care Institutions under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 namely Reception Units, Children Homes and Observation Homes are directly managed by the Government, as well as by Non-Governmental organizations. The Special Homes and After Care Organizations are exclusively run by the Government. The Department is maintaining Vigilance/Protective Homes under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The Department is also successfully implementing the Integrated Child Protection Scheme which constitutes of components for protection of children efficiently and effectively.

## **7.2 THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015**

The main objective of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 is to have an effective provision in law for children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. The Act governs separate set of procedures for the following two categories of children:-

- (i) The Children in need of Care and Protection
- (ii) The Children in Conflict with Law

## **7.3 CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION**

A child who does not have a parent or guardian or any other relatives to take care of him / her, is without any home or settled place or abode and is without any ostensible means of subsistence, street children, working children, abused, tortured, exploited and any one found vulnerable and victim of natural calamities come under the category of a child in need of care and protection.

### **7.3.1 Child Welfare Committees**

The Child Welfare Committees deal with the cases of children in need of care and protection. The Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted 32 Child Welfare Committees in the State for 32 districts. The Committees are vested with the powers of Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial Magistrate of First Class as per the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. They conduct the proceedings in a child-friendly manner and not as judicial proceedings of court.

**A sum of `490.80 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for the effective functioning of the Child Welfare Committees.**

### **7.3.2 Children Homes for Boys and Girls**

In order to have an effective management of Child Care Institutions and for better service delivery, the Government of Tamil Nadu has brought the 26 Government Children Homes and 122 Non-Governmental Organizations run homes from the control of Directorate of Social Welfare to the Directorate of Social Defence. As such there are 36 children homes

directly run by Government and 139 homes run through Non-Governmental Organizations with the financial assistance from the Government.

Two Children Homes in Chennai and One at Mayiladuthurai are run by the Non Governmental Organisations for special needs children who are physically and mentally retarded. The children are provided with basic needs such as food, clothing and bedding and dormitory with sufficient water, electricity and toiletry facilities.

**A sum of `5196.49 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for these homes.**

### **7.3.3 Open Shelters for Children in need in Urban and Semi Urban Areas**

The main objective of running an open shelter is to provide temporary residential care and basic services to the children in need of care and protection such as the destitute / abandoned, beggars, street and working children, rag pickers, pavement dwellers, small vendors, street performers, deserted, trafficked and run away children, children of migrant population and any other

vulnerable group of children. There are 14 open shelters functioning in Urban and Semi–Urban areas in Tamil Nadu. Maintenance grant of `2000/- per child per month is being provided apart from expenses towards rent, water, electricity, transportation and contingencies.

**A sum of `265.15 lakh has been provided in Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for this component.**

#### **7.4 CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAW**

Child in conflict with Law means a child who is alleged to have committed an offence and has not completed eighteenth year of age as on the date of committal of such offence.

##### **7.4.1 Juvenile Justice Boards**

The Government of Tamil Nadu had constituted 32 Juvenile Justice Boards in the State for 32 districts to deal with matters relating to children in conflict with law. The Juvenile Justice Board consists of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class with two Social Worker Members (including one woman Social Worker Member). Similar to Child Welfare Committee,

the Board also conducts the proceedings in a child-friendly manner and not as judicial proceedings of court. The Board holds its sittings from Monday to Friday not exceeding 20 sittings in a month.

**A sum of `254.64 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for the effective running of Juvenile Justice Boards.**

#### **7.4.2 Observation Homes**

Observation homes are residential care institutions for providing temporary accommodation of children in conflict with law while their cases are pending before the Juvenile Justice Boards. In Tamil Nadu, there are 7 Observation Homes run by the Government / Non-Governmental Organizations. Children residing in the Observation Homes are provided with basic amenities like shelter, food, clothing, medical and non formal education besides counseling and guidance. To ensure the safety of children and for close monitoring the Government had provided surveillance and security equipments to six Observation Homes in the first phase.

**A sum of `250.40 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for this component.**

### **7.4.3 Special Homes for Boys and Girls**

Children found guilty of committing an offence after an enquiry by the Juvenile Justice Board under due process of law are sent to Special Homes for rehabilitation. Children could stay in the special home for a maximum period of three years. There are two Government Special Homes, one at Chennai for girls and the other at Chengalpattu for Boys. In Special Homes, the children are provided with education, vocational training, counseling and facilities for co-curricular activities to develop their skills for self reliance and bring them back to main stream of the society. To ensure the safety of children and for close monitoring, the Government had provided surveillance and security equipments to Government Special Homes with 100 KVA Automatic Diesel Genset for uninterrupted power supply.



**A sum of `190.19 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for this component.**

#### **7.4.4 Government After Care Organisations**

On completing rehabilitation programmes in the children homes and special homes, if children require extended institutional care after 18 years of age, such young adults are accommodated in the after care organizations. Young Adults who could not be restored to their family for various reasons or children continuing their education or undergoing training are usually admitted in the After Care Organizations. There are two After Care Organizations catering to the needs of young adult boys one at Athur, Chengalpattu (Kancheepuram District) and the other at Madurai. One After Care Organisation is functioning at Vellore for young adult girls.

In addition, a Non-Governmental Organization in Chennai is supported by Government for running a shelter home with vocational training for mentally challenged adult girls.

**A sum of `133.96 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for this component.**

#### **7.4.5 Programme Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Cell**

In 1991, the Programme Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Cell was established in the Directorate of Social Defence with the financial support of UNICEF to monitor the child welfare programmes (Government and Non-Governmental Organization). The Cell is conducting meetings and conferences pertaining to the children in difficult circumstances and conducting inspections of all the Homes maintained by the Government and Non-Governmental Organizations. The cell is mandated to periodically review the child welfare programmes and suggest measures for improvement.

#### **7.4.6 Other Initiatives taken by the Government**

##### **7.4.6.1 Provision of Laptops to District Child Protection Offices**

The offices of the District Child Protection Officers in 32 districts have been provided with one laptop at a total cost of `16.00 lakhs for effective implementation of

various child protection laws / schemes in the district and for submitting reports and documents about child related activities.

#### **7.4.6.2 Provision of Vehicles in the Child Care Institutions**

The Government has provided vehicles to 12 Child Care Institutions viz. Government Children Homes for Boys at Erode, Ranipet, Villupuram, Thanjavur and Karaikudi, Government Children Homes for Girls at Chennai-10, Government Observation Home for Girls at Salem, Government Observation Homes for Boys and Girls at Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli, Government Special Home for Boys at Chengalpattu, Government After Care Organization at Madurai, at a total cost of `61.00 lakh.

#### **7.4.6.3 Enhancement of Security Arrangements in Child Care Institutions**

##### **7.4.6.3.1 Provision of Video Conferencing Facility in Government Observation Home, Tirunelveli and in 3 Juvenile Justice Boards**

To avoid the security risk of transporting the inmates from the Government Observation Home and to

save the cost in transportation and security arrangements and to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of the inmates involved in the case, the Government set up a Video Conferencing facility in the Government Observation Home, Tirunelveli and in three Juvenile Justice Boards of Sivagangai, Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram Districts at a total cost of `38.90 lakh.

#### **7.4.6.3.2 Provision of CCTV Cameras in the Child Care Institutions**

The Government has provided CCTV Cameras in 9 Government Children Homes at Chennai, Ranipet, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Karaikudi, Mallipudhur, Thattapparai, Panjappalli and Erode, Government Observation Homes at Salem, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli, Government Homes for Women at Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Madurai and Coimbatore, Reception Unit at Vellore, Government After Care Home for Women and Holdall Unit at Vellore and After Care Organisation for Boys at Athur (Chengalpet) and Madurai totally at 21 Homes which are functioning under the

control of Directorate of Social Defence at an estimated cost of ₹32.00 lakh.

#### **7.4.6.4 Infrastructure Facilities**

The Government has sanctioned a sum of ₹6.04 crore towards construction of new buildings for Observation Home for Boys and Observation Home for Girls at Madurai and also for renovation of main building in the campus so as to convert it as an office and Juvenile Justice Board.

#### **7.4.6.5 Creation of District Child Protection Officer**

In order to carry out the mandates laid down under Juvenile Justice System and to supervise and control the District Level mechanism for optimum service delivery and easy reach, the Government have created 32 posts of District Child Protection Officers with full time officer with time scale of pay.

### **7.5 RESOURCE CENTRES**

Resource Centres are functioning as a centre for providing Psycho – Social support, guidance for children

in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law. Resource Centre run by NGOs provides counseling and guidance to children and also their parents who are referred by Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board and Superintendents of child care institutions. The Resource Centers are run by NGO's with the financial assistance from Government in 18 Districts in Tamil Nadu.

**A sum of `7.80 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016 - 2017 for this component.**

## **7.6 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

The Government Child Care Institutions mainly focus on educating children for their empowerment. Children having aptitude for higher education are sent to outside schools for continuing education. Children having interest in vocational training are provided with training in vocational trade of their interest.

In majority of the Child Care Institutions, in built schools have been established to provide formal

education. In Child Care Institutions where schools are not available, children are sent to nearby schools. Non-formal education is provided in Child Care Institutions which provide temporary reception such as Observation Homes and Reception Units.

**A sum of `4.80 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for this component.**

## **7.7 MODERNIZED VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Children are imparted with skill based vocational training such as tailoring, carpentry and book binding by the regular staff of the Institutions. Apart from regular vocational programmes, short term courses on the following trades are also organised with the support of voluntary agencies:-

- Handy Man - Plumbing / Electrical / Carpentry
- Videography / Photography
- Dress Making / Tailoring Embroidery
- Fabric Painting / Book Binding
- Handicraft / Artistic works / Painting

- Soft toys / paper bag / Plate making / Artificial Jewels making / Fabric , wall and oil painting
- Computer DTP / Photo suite
- Beautician / Mehendi Application course
- Food processing

**A sum of `31.19 lakh has been provided in Budget Estimate 2016 - 2017 for this component.**

## **7.8 CHILDLINE 1098**

The children in crisis and children who need immediate help or anybody who comes across such children could immediately contact the CHILDLINE, a toll free round the clock national level outreach programme, implemented by the Child India Foundation founded in June, 1996. The Nation wide common number **Ten Nine Eight (1098)** has been assigned for child line services. The childline services are executed by the Non - Governmental Organisations, with the financial assistance of Government of India. The services provided by the Non–Governmental Organisations are rescue and interventions.



In Tamil Nadu, the child line is functioning in all Districts except Ariyalur and Erode.

## **7.9 INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME (ICPS)**

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the centrally sponsored Integrated Child Protection Scheme for ensuring Child Protection by developing required structures for effective Juvenile Justice Administration in the State. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) aims at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, through Government-Civil Society partnership.

### **Objectives:-**

The objectives of the scheme are effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, contribution for the well being of children in difficult circumstances and ensuring protection of children in community as well as reducing the vulnerabilities of children to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation from parents.

These objectives are achieved by

- Improving access and quality of child protection services
- Raising public awareness about child rights and current situation prevailing in India
- Enforcing responsibility and accountability for child protection,
- Creating child protection data management system, child tracking system and monitoring of child protection services
- Ensuring appropriate inter-sector response at all levels.

#### **7.9.1 Agencies under Integrated Child Protection Scheme**

The Government have established following organizations to implement the Integrated Child Protection Scheme effectively in the State:-

- i) State Child Protection Society (SCPS)
- ii) District Child Protection Societies/Units

(DCPS/DCPU)

- iii) State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)
- iv) Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs)
- v) Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU)

All the services available with Child Care Institutions run by the Government / Non-Governmental Organizations and Childline programme were inter-linked with Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards. The children in need of care and protection and juvenile in conflict with law are benefited directly under this scheme. Through training and awareness programmes conducted under Integrated Child Protection Scheme, the children in the community are benefitted.

**A sum of `2016.03 lakh has been provided in Budget Estimate 2016 - 2017 for this Scheme.**

#### **7.9.2 Registration of all Child Care Institutions under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**

The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 envisages registration of Child Care Institutions as mandatory and postulates legal punishment for running of Child Care Institutions without registration. The registration of Institution helps to monitor complete ground level situation, analysis and service availability of basic facilities in all such institutions in the State.

The registration of institutions will also serve to have a complete data base of children in the State to facilitate inter-linking of services among Child Care Institutions. So far, 767 institutions have been registered out of the 1,467 institutions existing in the State.

## **7.10 TRACK CHILD SYSTEM**

Missing children, children running away from their homes and those kidnapped are more vulnerable to exploitation and various forms of physical and sexual abuse and other human rights violations. Early identification of such children and timely restoration are the best interventions for securing their life and

ensuring their safety. The Government of India has set up a National Portal on Missing Child Tracking System through National Informatics Centre (NIC) to trace missing and found children. The data on the portal serves as missing children's live database besides monitoring the progress of the children in the institutions.

In Tamil Nadu, Child Track System has been functioning very efficiently by linking all the Police Stations, District Offices and Child Care Institutions in interior parts of the State with computers and network connections. The Department of Social Defence had organized training programmes on "the usage of the software for entering data on the National Portal on Missing Children Tracking System" for the functionaries of Child Care Institutions.

## **7.11 THE IMMORAL TRAFFIC (PREVENTION) ACT, 1956**

### **7.11.1 Aims and Objectives of The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**

- I. To prevent commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking among women and girls.
- II. To bring the traffickers, abusers and pimps before justice.

- III. To rehabilitate the victims in such a way that they are reintegrated into the main stream.

### **7.11.2 Vigilance / Protective Homes**

The Government of Tamil Nadu is maintaining five Government Vigilance / Protective Homes in Chennai, Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore and Trichy under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 for the rehabilitation of Women victims of trafficking.

Vigilance / Protective homes accommodate women victims who are in moral danger. Women and girls are being admitted as per the orders issued by the courts under various provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. In these homes basic services like care, medical treatment and counseling are provided to them as part of rehabilitative measure. In these homes, different vocational training is imparted to the victims according to their interest in order to develop their skills and to empower them.

In order to maintain the dignity of the affected women and to avoid revictimization, a video conferencing at the cost of `20.00 lakh facility has been established

between the Government Vigilance Home, Mylapore and Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Saidapet to facilitate “Virtual appearance in lieu of physical production to Court” for the victims under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

### **7.11.3 Rescue Shelters**

Women victims charged for offences under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and whose cases are under trial in the Court are sent to rescue shelter. There are six Rescue Shelters functioning in the State. They are kept in the Shelters temporarily until their cases are disposed of by the courts. These shelters are functioning along with the Vigilance / Protective Homes and one After Care Organisation in Vellore.

### **7.11.4 Unmarried Mothers Home**

Unmarried Mothers Home functioning in Chennai is attached to Government Vigilance Home, Mylapore to take care of women and girls who are victims of sexual exploitation and have become pregnant. The Unmarried Mothers Home at Adaikalapuram in Thoothukudi District is run by Non-Governmental Organisation.

**A sum of `323.18 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate 2016-2017 for Vigilance / Protective Homes, Rescue Shelters and Unmarried Mothers Home.**

## **7.12 REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES**

In Tamil Nadu, the State Government has taken up many welfare measures and rehabilitation programmes for the welfare of the Women and Girl Children. One such initiative is the creation of “Tamil Nadu Social Defence Welfare Fund for Women and Children” under this Department. The main aim of the fund is to meet the expenditure for developing facilities for children including institutional care, educational assistance to the needy destitute children. Children could be provided with a financial support upto `5,000/- in cash or material assistance upto `10,000/- to purchase the equipments and raw materials for self employment.



Vocational training is imparted to children and women on trades like Carpentry, Weaving, Book Binding, Gardening, Masonry, Tailoring, Embroidery, Metal Work, Mat Weaving, Plumbing, Electric Arc-Welding. Similarly, women and girls discharged from the Vigilance / Protective Homes are also given financial support for their self employment.

#### **7.12.1 State Initiatives for Combating Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children**

To curb the menace of trafficking and commercial exploitation, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken the following initiatives :-

- ❖ State Level Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu was setup.
- ❖ District Level Advisory Boards under the chairmanship of District Collector of the concerned district were formed.
- ❖ Village Level Watch Dog Committees under the Chairmanship of Village Panchayat President were

also formed in each and every village to monitor the issue of trafficking of women and children.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the first State in setting up of this three tier system for this purpose.
- ❖ In addition to the above committees, a High Level Supervisory Committee has been formed under the Chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare to oversee the steps taken to curb the menace of trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation and also rehabilitation provided to the victims.
- ❖ Refresher trainings were organized with the assistance of Government and UNICEF for organizations implementing programmes for awareness generation, rehabilitation of victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

#### **7.12.2 Schemes for Vulnerable Women Victims Relief Fund**

The State Government has announced a financial assistance of `10,000/- to victims rescued from trafficking

for their livelihood and rehabilitation. So far, 209 victims have been benefitted under this scheme.

### **Ujjawala Scheme**

Trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is a crime planned against human rights. It is necessary for taking preliminary action to prevent trafficking in those areas where probability of trafficking is higher.

To tackle the above threat, Ujjawala scheme has been introduced by the Government of India. This Scheme is a comprehensive scheme for Prevention of trafficking, rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. There are 8 Non-Governmental Organisations implementing this scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu with financial assistance from Government of India.

### **De-Addiction Programme**

Drug Abuse Prevention Programme is implemented in the State through Non-Governmental Organisations through financial assistance from

Government of India. The addicts of alcohol / drugs are given free treatment for 21 days as inpatients in the Integrated Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers functioning under this Scheme. There are 26 centers functioning across the State.

### **7.13 THE TAMILNADU COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS**

The National Policy for Children, 1974 recognizes that programme for Children should find prominent place in National plans for the Development of Human Resources. The Government of India has acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1992 and adopted the National Charter for Children 2003 on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2004 which underlines the commitment of State to secure every child its inherent right to be a child.

In continuation of adoption of the National Charter for Children 2003, the Central Government has enacted the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 which provides the constitution of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights. The Government of Tamil

Nadu has constituted the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and it's functioning since 18.01.2013 effectively.

The powers and functions of the Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights are given below:-

POWERS	FUNCTIONS
This Commission has all powers of Civil Court for trying the case against the violation of Child Rights under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To monitor / supervise the active implementation of following Child related legislations.</li> <li>b. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.</li> <li>c. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.</li> <li>d. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.</li> <li>e. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.</li> <li>f. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory</li> </ul>

	<p>Education Act, 2009.</p> <p>g. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.</p>
To get relevant documents relating to the violation of Child Rights issues from Police and other Departments.	<p>➤ To recommend the competent authority to take necessary and immediate remedial steps towards violation of child rights after making necessary enquiries.</p> <p>➤ To create awareness to the General Public about child rights.</p> <p>➤ To take necessary action against child rights violations based on complaints received from General Public, Media, NGO, and suo motto cognizance of the cases.</p> <p>➤ To conduct Training / Convention Programme to Government / Non Government bodies with respect to child rights.</p>
To monitor the establishment of Special Courts under POSCO 2012, Act.	
To recommend the Government towards compensation for victim children.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To develop child welfare policy.</li> </ul>
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### **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009**

The Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights is committed to monitor the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 as per the section 31 of the Act.

Further, as per the section 12 (1c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the Commission also has the power to verify the 25% of

admissions of the weaker and disadvantage children in private and grant receiving schools across the State.

### **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012**

As per the section 44 of the POCSO Act, 2012 the Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights is monitoring the implementation of the Act throughout the State.

### **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**

The Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights is committed to monitor the implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 as laid down in the section 109 of this Act.

### **Cases dealt with by the Commission**

From the date of inception (18.01.2013) to till date, the Commission has dealt with several cases relating to violation of Child Rights received through News Papers, Media, Public / NGOs, National Commission for Protection for Child Rights and others. Around 757 cases have been resolved so far. The Official e-mail ID of the



Commission is [scpcrtn@gmail.com](mailto:scpcrtn@gmail.com) and the Website is [www.scpcr.tn.gov.in](http://www.scpcr.tn.gov.in).

**A sum of `48.80 lakh has been provided in Budget Estimate 2016 - 2017 for this Commission.**

#### **7.14 LINKAGES WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

The Child Protection is a very wide field and hence various departments vested with responsibility of delivering required services to children need to come together. The Department of Social Defence aims at inter-linking such services to serve as a bridge between the line departments by the convergence of their services.

The Department of Social Defence is having a close co-ordination with Social Welfare, Education, Labour Welfare, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Child Labour Project, Railway Police, Revenue, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Rural Development, Municipal Administration, Medical and Health, Child line, Police, Judicial, Differently Abled Welfare Departments.

The Government has developed a strong District level mechanism by constituting District Level Committees with the members of different Departments delivering services to children. The District Level Co-ordination Committee / District Child Protection Committee headed by the District Collector, with the assistance of District Administration, is readily available for child protection at district level. Awareness and sensitization programmes have been conducted by the Department of Social Defence for the prevention of child marriage, sexual abuse, trafficking of children, exploitation, begging, child labour, other forms of physical abuse, etc.

#### **7.15 SOCIAL DEFENCE OFFICIAL WEBSITE AND E-MAIL ID**

The Official Website of Social Defence is [www.socialdefence.tn.gov.in](http://www.socialdefence.tn.gov.in) and e-mail ID is [dsd.tn@nic.in](mailto:dsd.tn@nic.in).

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