INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICY NOTE -2009-2010

DEMAND NO: 31

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CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

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A ruler who governs justly and provides security to his people will be acclaimed as the Leader of the people

- Ayyan Thiruvalluvar

India has had a few path breaking movements such as the green revolution, white revolution and telecom revolution. However, it was the Information Technology revolution which gave India an International brand image. In Tamil Nadu, visionary steps by the Hon'ble Chief Minister by formulating the first Information Technology Policy in 1997 and in introducing computer education in school curriculum during 1999 – 2000 have ensured the state's prominence at the National level. The continued steps of the Government have ensured the development of the Information Technology sector in Tamil Nadu in a holistic and inclusive manner. Tamil Nadu has remained a favorite destination of choice for investments in Information Technology in both, software and hardware. The pro-active policies of the Government, a vibrant corporate sector and the availability of world class talent are the leading factors that have inspired international investors to invest in the State. Tamil Nadu continues to remain as one of the major contributors to the growth of the IT sector in the Indian economy.

1.1 EMERGING ROLE OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The role of the department has been increasingly broadened in scope to include promotional activities, infrastructure development and most importantly to ensure that the Government is in touch with the latest developments in this field in the international arena. The emerging role of the department is explained below:

 Department as an infrastructure Department The IT Department is increasingly functioning as an infrastructure creation and maintenance department. IT infrastructure is being built through out the State and is under the control and maintenance of the IT department. The State Data Centre has now become the nerve centre for applications of all Departments. An Additional State 1 Data Centre is to be built at the same location. A Disaster Recovery Centre has to be instituted at Madurai as an indispensable requirement. A State Wide Area Network (TNSWAN) with Points of Presence (POP) has now been installed in 384 blocks, all Taluks, Divisional Offices and District Headquarters. Current proposal for Optic Fibre networks with gigabit connectivity for all Departments using a convergence approach is now underway. This entire Information highway is being maintained by multiple agencies under the supervision of the IT Department.

- Developing e-services : Currently, the IT Department is actively involved in over 15 Departments to build IT applications for delivering citizen centric services throughout the State. Some of these are detailed later in this document. The IT Department in Secretariat has grouped together all technically qualified computer personnel in Secretariat and is utilizing them to coordinate/build IT applications in all Departments.
- IT Department as a Capacity Building Department : Computer Training Centers have now been inaugurated in all Districts. These Training Centers have full-fledged training infrastructure. Departments ranging from cooperatives, commercial taxes etc have already undergone intensive training. As several IT applications are being developed, major capacity building program are being drawn up to ensure that each department is sufficiently equipped to handle these applications.
- Knowledge Department : The IT Department is increasingly being seen as a knowledge Department with the increasingly complex nature of technology developments in the world thereby requiring that developments planned in various departments are not found to be obsolete due to the arrival of even more advanced technologies. The department is ably assisted by NIC, Chennai in discharging its duties and matching up to expectations of all departments.
- IT Industry interaction and promotional role: Interface with the IT Industry on a regular ongoing basis has become essential as this Industry is a major growth driver for the Tamil Nadu economy. The efforts of moving the Industry into Tier II cities have also resulted in increased expectations across the state and a

broadening of the presence of the IT sector in the state. This Department has to regularly interact with academicians, Software Professionals, Industry Experts, premier business organizations such as CII, FICCI, NASSCOM etc,

Other developments : The IT Department is also in the process of implementation of Common Service Centers which will be involved in the delivering services of all citizen centric departments. The roll-out of these Common Service Centres will take place shortly. Further, 8 IT SEZs are in different stages of development. Major initiatives such as the ICTACT Academy, Indian Institute Information Technology (D & M), IIT Research Park, SETS and many other such initiatives are now in crucial stages of take-off and are being assisted by the department. ELCOT, Arasu Cable Television Corporation, TN e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) and Tamil Virtual University are wide and varied sectors being handled by the IT Department successfully. The procurement of computer hardware most departments, IT finishing school, the Colour TV Project and Rural BPOs are some of the other multifarious activities of the department.

CHAPTER – II

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED (ELCOT)

ELCOT is a wholly owned Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking, registered under the Indian Companies Act (1956). ELCOT began its activities as a promotional organization in the field of electronics when the electronics industry required promotion and development support from the Government. Since the advent of the IT revolution in India, ELCOT, with the support of Government of Tamil Nadu, diversified its area of operations from Electronics to Information Technology and began functioning under the Department of Information Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu from 1998 onwards. ELCOT has been providing hand holding support to Government of Tamil Nadu and its Departments, Organizations, Boards, etc. in the area of IT, IT related initiatives and egovernance. ELCOT is the preferred nodal agency for carrying out major turnkey IT projects of the Government. ELCOT has been associated with the implementation of some of the projects such as the Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network (TNSWAN), State Data Centre (SDC), and Free Distribution of Colour Televisions etc. ELCOT also plays a vital role in the creation of I.T Parks at Tier II cities viz; Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Salem, Vellore and Hosur.

2.1 IT PROMOTION

The Government of Tamil Nadu is actively promoting Information Technology in this state in order to sustain the growth that has been achieved in this field and also to make Tamil Nadu as the most preferred Destination of Choice among investors. The Government of Tamil Nadu is actively involved with premier organizations like NASSCOM, CII, and FICCI etc in promoting Information Technology in this State. The Government of Tamil Nadu through ELCOT participates in a number of National and International, IT events, and by doing so, it has managed to showcase facilities that are available in Tamil Nadu and the various incentives that are offered to the companies that invest in this state. By actively promoting the Tier II cities, Tamil Nadu has passed on the benefits of Information Technology to every part of the State. "CONNECT" is a premier IT event conducted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, ELCOT and CII. This event has served as a platform for showcasing the capacity of the industry in all areas of ICT and provides a forum for Indian ICT industry to exchange views on the latest trends and developments, discuss issues concerning infrastructure and capacity creation and create enabling conditions for entrepreneurship and innovation. The past eight editions of "CONNECT" have attracted the attention of the cream of the IT industry in India as well as from a large number of foreign countries and has emerged as one of the most popular forums in the National and International calendar of ICT events. "CONNECT 2009" the ninth in this series is planned to be held in the month of September 2009 at Chennai. It is anticipated that a large number of national and international delegates will participate in this event. "Empower IT" is a campaign to promote manpower potential by inducing confidence among the student community of Tier II cities.

2.2 PROMINENT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY ELCOT

(i) Civil Supplies Department e-Governance Software Development

ELCOT has created a web based application for family card for the entire 2 crore families and hosted the database online at the ELCOT server. New family cards are being printed and issued now at the District Collectorate online. The data base resides in the ELCOT data centre at Perungudi, Chennai. During the financial year 2008-2009, ELCOT has printed and issued 4,53,651 family cards.

(ii) <u>Registration Department e-Governance Software Development</u>

ELCOT has been entrusted with the task of providing e-Governance software development under web based environment for the Registration Department. Part of the Registration software was developed in-house and further development will be carried out through NIC. ELCOT has been augmenting its data centre to facilitate the online hosting of the registration software. The citizen's satisfactory level is expected to go up considerably after the implementation of the online transaction system.

(iii) Software for Commercial Taxes Department

The Commercial Taxes Department has entrusted the task of developing and hosting application software enabling the Commercial Tax Dealers to register online and to file their monthly VAT Returns online. ELCOT has already developed the prototype of the software which is under testing by the Commercial Tax department. During the course of this year, this application software will be hosted online from ELCOT's Main Frame Server Data Centre thus enabling the Commercial Tax Dealer Community to get the best of online services from Government.

(iv) Automation Software for Directorate of Town and Country Planning

Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) has entrusted the development of application software to ELCOT for automating its operations in the area of Layout Approval and Building Plan Approval. The DTCP Software with full citizen interface is now being developed.

(v) Web-based Application Software for Employment and Training Department

Employment and Training has entrusted the development of application software to ELCOT for registration of Job seekers, vocational guidance, periodical collection and compilation of data and implementation of unemployment Assistance Scheme. The Software development is under progress and will be completed by this year. This application will cater to the need of the Private Sector also.

(vi) Web-based Application Software for Construction and Manual Workers Board

Construction and Manual Workers Board has entrusted the development of application software to ELCOT for executing the various welfare assistance schemes and pension scheme at a faster pace while ensuring that all transaction are kept transparent.

(vii) Web-based Application Software for Labour Department

Commissionerate of Labour has entrusted the development of application software to ELCOT for efficient management of settlement of industrial disputes, enforcement of labour laws, minimum wages and eradication of child labour. The most important part of this work is to bring in an online employment exchange that would benefit both the private sector and the government. Easy retrieval of information on human resources will enable better mobility and overall functional efficiency in the economy.

(viii) Centralised Co-operative Banking Software

ELCOT has developed web based application software for automating the operations of the District Central Co-operative Banks and Urban Co-operative banks.

This web based Total banking automation software has been deployed at 3 Pilot branches and has been approved by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The automated banking application software is being implemented all over Tamil Nadu by Registrar of Co-operative Societies through the Vendors of Facility Management Services selected by ELCOT.

Presently, the Application is being installed at the respective branches. However, the hosting of this Application at the centralised Main Frame Server through the Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network Infrastructure will be considered at a later stage. The Total Banking Automation for Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks is in the User Acceptance Testing.

(ix) Farmers Social Security Card

ELCOT has printed 78.85 lakh Family identity Cards for the Agricultural Labourers/Farmers using the family card data and as per the requirements projected by the District Collectors. Farmers who are issued the Social Security Cards are covered under various schemes of Social Security by the Government.

(x) Driving Licence

The preparation and issue of laminated computerised Driving License has been entrusted by the Transport Commissioner to ELCOT. ELCOT is issuing the cards in 107 RTO and Unit offices covering the entire state. ELCOT is implementing the scheme through M/s.Keltron and M/s.UTI Technologies. ELCOT has issued 15.90 lakhs Driving Licenses during the financial year 2008-2009.

(xi) Hand held Billing Machine

The procurement and supply of Hand held Billing Machines to 28,500 retail outlets and Kerosene bunks under the control of Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation was entrusted to ELCOT. As a pilot, the billing machines were supplied to 53 kerosene Bunks, 97 ration shops and 4 Petrol Bunks through M/s.Quantum Power Systems. As on date, ELCOT has received orders for supply of billing machines to 1,068 rations shops in Chennai, 209 kerosene bunks covering the entire state under the control of Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

(xii) Computer Training Centre (Linux and Application Software)

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Computer Training has been established with 300 seater capacity at Chennai and 25 seater capacity at the district headquarters. About 10,000 Government employees have been trained during 2008-2009.

(xiii) Software Support Centre

ELCOT has set up an e-Governance Software support centre under Open Source Software environment in its Head Office. The software support centre has been providing active support to the Government Departments in the areas of software consultancy and outsourcing the Application software development for e-Governance applications.

(xiv) Procurement

ELCOT has adopted an innovative procurement policy by encouraging competition among the vendors coupled with an open and transparent procurement process. This has resulted in substantial price reduction compared with the market value of the products, thus contributing to substantial savings for Government Departments.

2.3 NEW SCHEMES FOR THE YEAR 2009-2010

(i) <u>Skill building initiatives for e-governance programs and repositioning</u> investment strategy in the new world economic environment

Several e-governance applications that will benefit the common man are being rolled out through different departments. In 2009, there are likely to be many initiatives that would require a major skill-building effort amongst Government servants. Further, more efforts need to be focused on training the trainers and identifying those qualified in IT/IT related studies and equipping them to be involved in skill building initiatives among their colleagues.

Apart from such a skill building program, it has now become necessary to undertake special efforts to promote investment in 2009 on account of the world wide recessions and in some way to reposition the strategy of Tamil Nadu being a good destination for the future. This will need a wide range of innovative efforts and for this the necessary funding is also required. ELCOT will implement the above initiatives as it is already involved in promoting investments in IT. An amount of Rs.85.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget 2009-2010 for implementing this scheme.

2.4 TAMIL NADU STATE WIDE AREA NETWORK (TNSWAN)

Tamil Nadu State Wide Area Network (TNSWAN) is one among the core e-Governance infrastructure identified by National e- Governance Action Plan (NeGP) for running the Mission Mode Projects, which are to be implemented in a phased manner at the Central and State level, in addition to various other e-Governance initiatives.

Government of India has issued guidelines for setting up of State Wide Area Networks and also extended partial financial support. The State Government has accorded administrative sanction for the implementation of TNSWAN at an estimated cost of Rs.181.69 crores which includes State Government share of Rs.84.52 crores and Government of India share of Rs.97.17 crores spread over a period of five years.

The objective of the Scheme is to create a Government network for the purpose of delivering G2G (Government to Government) and G2C (Government to Citizen) services. The TNSWAN network is two-tier architecture. Tier 1 is from State to District level and the Tier 2 is from District headquarters to Revenue division, Taluk and Block level. The network connectivity has been established using the bandwidth provided by multiple Public/Private Communication providers (PCPs).

The State has made use of the Right of Way (ROW) to negotiate broadband network capacity from Public / Private Communication Providers (PCPs) and is in a position to avail free bandwidth for the TNSWAN infrastructure. TNSWAN interconnects the State Head Quarter with District Head Quarters and each District Head Quarter with Block Head Quarters using the 2 Mbps free bandwidth availed from the PCPs.

The total number of Points of Presence (POP) of the network is 708. Apart from the above TNSWAN centers, the network will be connected to the other horizontal offices from TNSWAN center. Necessary termination port will be made available at all centers to link these horizontal offices through suitable channel. Voice, Data and Video connectivity is provided through TNSWAN for providing services to the citizens with improved response-time and transparency.

TNSWAN has been set up on BOOT (Build, Own, Operate and Transfer) basis over a period of 5 years. The State has identified ELCOT as the nodal agency to take overall responsibility for receipt of funding support, implementation and rendering accounts/ Utilization Certificates.

State Government is planning to launch tools of e-Governance in certain sectors of Government through TNSWAN. This will enable citizens to access information on Land Records, Transport Facilities, Encumbrance Certificate, Municipal Services and Food and Civil Supplies from any part of the State.

2.5 STATE DATA CENTRE

In order to provide basic infrastructural necessity at the State level, a Data Centre was commissioned in the Perungudi ELCOT site with a capacity of 2- main frame servers, 2 - storage systems and 2- Tape Drives. Currently, the Civil supplies Department, Chennai Corporation, Poompuhar Shipping Corporation, Arasu Cable TV Corporation and M.G.R Medical University have their applications running on the Main frames and Registration Department, Aavin, Police Department, Prison Department, Tamil Nadu Text Book Corporation, Commercial Taxes Department etc., have their applications running on the rack servers located at the Data Centre.

2.6 SCHEME TO PROVIDE FREE COLOUR TELEVISION

In order to sensitise people on the policies and programmes of the Government and to increase the aspiration levels of the people, a unique scheme of free distribution of Colour Television Sets (CTVs) to the households not having Colour Television Sets was commenced on 15th September 2006 commemorating the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna and Thanthai Periyar. A Committee of Legislators comprising representatives of political parties under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ensured transparency in procurement and distribution of Colour Television sets. In the first three phases 62, 80,000 CTVs have been procured and distributed to the households in Tamil Nadu. With a view to continue the scheme which has received all round appreciation, orders have been placed for procurement of 41,62,500 more CTVs in Phase IV and the distribution of these CTVs is underway . In order to distribute CTVs for the left over families, the Government has announced that 25, 00,000 CTVs would be procured under Phase V. A sum of Rs.500 crores has been allocated in the Budget 2009-2010, to continue the scheme.

CHAPTER – III

TAMIL NADU e-GOVERNANCE AGENCY

Government of Tamil Nadu has taken several initiatives in Information Technology and was ranked as one of the Leading States in terms of e-Readiness Index in the Country. The Government has taken several initiatives to build institutional framework of Governance to promote, popularize, conceptualize, program manage and implement e-Governance programs. To institutionalize the existing structure and to drive e-Governance by creating Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for bringing in unhindered focus into framing and implementation of the State's e-Governance initiatives, the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) has been created as State's Nodal Agency for all e-Governance initiatives. TNeGA would act as the support agency of the Government of Tamil Nadu in all areas of e-Government to draw up the big picture and standards, high-level planning of core projects and Capacity Building.

The mission of TNeGA is to achieve a factor enhancement in the quality and pace of implementation of e-government program in the state through creation of a virtual forum for integration of efforts of the government agencies, the ICT industry and the academic world. The vision of TNeGA is to establish itself as a centre of excellence in e-government and to become the focal point of major e-government activities in the State of Tamil Nadu. TNeGA is an autonomous society established with a plan to raise social awareness of smart governance and the economic opportunities it offers to the citizens, firm and the government through appropriate awareness, education and Capacity Building programs.

It will strive to position itself as an institution dedicated to promote electronic governance by combining the best that the specialized institutions in the country have to offer into a holistic program. It will act as the principal mechanism to channelise private competencies-including financial, technical and managerial – into national electronic governance efforts. It will also ensure that a statewide strategic architecture and groundwork is in place, in line with the National agenda so that they can play a robust and effective part in developing a national environment for electronic governance. It will act as a 'force multiplier' to design IT leveraged policies and programs that efficiently and effectively respond directly to the citizen's most pressing needs, including education, health and employment-on a continuing basis. It will offer services to Government Departments in three streams viz., Architecture, Consultancy,

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Training and suggest high impact e-governance applications which can be viably implemented by specifying commercially viable mechanisms. Selection of vendors/consultants/agencies and contracting of external agencies/persons/services are some of the major functions of the TNeGA.

3.1 COMMON SERVICE CENTRES

The National e-Governance Action Plan (NeGAP) formulated by the Government of India for implementation across the country, envisages the vision of making all Government services accessible to the common man in his locality through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs. Accordingly, 5440 rural locations have been identified to establish these Common Service Centres in Tamil Nadu. M/s.IL&FS is the Principal Consultant and M/s.3i Infotech, M/s.SREI Infotech are the Service Center Agencies. The roll out and certification of Centres are progressing rapidly. Out of 5440, around 4732 centres have been identified by the Service Center Agencies, which includes 100% identification in respect of Ariyalur, Dharmapuri, Erode, Kanyakumari, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Nilgiris, Perambalur, Ramanathapuram and Trichy Districts. 823 Centres are ready for certification and roll out. A State Portal with online services is proposed to be created shortly and it will be utilised by the Common Service Centers for the benefit of the citizens.

The CSC's role is to provide Business-to-Citizen services (B2C), Business-to-Business services (B2B), Government-to-Citizen services (G2C) and Government as a service provider for the rural consumer. Some of the range of services that may be offered through the CSCs include Agriculture, Banking, Education and Training, Telemedicine, Forms downloading, Ticket reservation, Digital photos, DTP work, Web Surfing, photocopy, CD burning, etc. There is a huge potential for CSCs to act as data collection points in the village for research and government agencies. This could also increase the local employment opportunities in the village. The CSCs will be viewed as a last mile distribution point for delivery of end-to-end rural solutions.

3.2 E - DISTRICT PROJECT

Districts are the primary delivery channels for government administration to deliver a large number of services to the citizens; therefore e-governance can

significantly improve government service delivery at the grass root level. The e-District program is aimed at "delivering more than 75% of the services of the Collectorate electronically". e-District has been envisaged by Government of Tamil Nadu as automation of workflow and internal processes of District Administration with the possibility of seamless integration of various departments including Revenue, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, BC & MBC Welfare, District Social Welfare, etc., for providing services to the citizens. This project is of paramount importance to the State as it would help in creating an automated workflow system for the district administration and help in providing efficient department services.

The Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India have accorded administrative approval for implementation of the "Pilot e-District Project" for implementation in five Districts of Thiruvarur, Krishnagiri, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Coimbatore at an estimated outlay of Rs.12.58 crores. M/s.WIPRO has been engaged as the implementation support Agency through specified procedures involving NICSI. As of now, 62 services under 9 departments have been identified for implementation. For the successful implementation of the 'e-District' project, State Project Committee and the District Level Monitoring committee have been constituted and work has been completed in two distinct phases of identifying 'As is' processes in the identified services and projecting the 'to be' processes so as to reengineer existing procedures and make them deliverable electronically.

3.3 ENHANCING E-SERVICES IN TAMIL NADU

The following pilot projects in e-Governance have been sanctioned by Department of Information Technology, Government of India for enhancing e-Services in Tamil Nadu and are being implemented through NIC, Chennai.

1. <u>E-Services of Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department of</u> <u>TamilNadu</u>

The primary objective of the project is for offering improved and efficient delivery of services to citizens by implementing web based systems and providing connectivity to Taluk Supply Offices, District Supply Offices and all related offices. The systems will enable offering of various web based services.

Applications Systems developed

Applications for Public Use:

The following Application systems have been implemented and are in use:

- Consumer Grievances Redressal
 - o Register Grievance relating to PDS as well as non-PDS
 - o Automated email acknowledgments to the citizen
 - o View Reply by citizen
- Facility for Consumer to know Allotment details of any Fair Price Shop.
 - Register email-id along with Fair Price Shop identification for receiving automated emails on monthly basis
 - Facility to unsubscribe.

The following Application systems have been designed and developed for public use, and are to be launched:

- Online Application Related to Family Cards
 - o Application for New Ration Card
 - Application for No Card Certificate
 - Application for Non Inclusion Certificate
 - Application for Change in LPG Status
 - View Status of Application
 - o Online Help
- Online Application Related to Permits & Licence
 - Application for Bulk Permit
 - o Application for Wholesaler Licence
 - Application for RRC Licence
 - View Status of Application
- Ration Card Search
- Locate your Taluk Supply Office

Applications for Departmental use for monitoring delivery of services:

Corresponding modules for office use have also been implemented as a workflow system, for responding to the online applications / grievances received through the Citizens interface. These have been enhanced for more efficient back office processing.

G2G applications

The following G2G applications have been implemented that are being used over the infrastructure established. These have been enhanced with the introduction of a number of new modules/ reports:

Monthly PDS Allotment System

A web based work-flow application has been implemented for generating Monthly PDS shop wise Allotment Statements for Taluks / Zones.

Online Price Monitoring System

A web based system has been implemented for daily/weekly/ fortnightly transmission of prices of essential commodities and vegetables, which are monitored by the Price Monitoring Cell of the Civil Supplies Dept.

Online Reporting System for Seizures

The online software for Reporting of Seizures allows Taluk Supply Officers / District Supply Officers and other senior officers or CCS squad to enter complaints regarding Seizures from their respective locations. The consolidated Complaint Reports may be viewed online by Commissioner's Office, in sorted order of Offender Name, or sorted order of Complaint Date.

Online Reporting System for TNCSC

A web based application has been developed for online reporting of daily stock, allotment, liftment, and procurement details from all regional offices of TNCSC.

2. E-Services of Taluk Offices

The primary objectives of this project are the following:

- For enabling web based systems for improved and efficient delivery of services to citizens by providing connectivity to Taluk Offices
- To apply online for services
- Providing Acknowledgement to the Citizen
- Facility to view application processing status
- E-Payment

Applications Systems developed

Application Systems have been designed for offering following services to Citizens:

a) The services that are offered to the citizens are as under :

- View Chitta Extract by citizens
- View A Register Extract by citizens
- Verify Chitta Extract for Agencies
- Verify A Register Extract for Agencies
- Verify whether land is Government or Private
- b) Training has been given to District and Taluk Officials
- c) Services related to Land Records
 - To view and apply for the Chitta details
 - To view and apply for the A Register details
 - To apply for Patta Transfer
 - View the application processing status
- d) Applications relating to Certificates
 - To view and apply for the Birth / Death Certificates details
 - To view and apply for Legal Heirship / Community / Nativity / Residency /Income Certificates
 - View the application processing status
- e) Public Grievances
 - Register a Grievance
 - View the Grievance Petitions processing status
- f) The servers have been procured and installed in the NIC State Data Centre.
- g) TNSWAN connectivity to taluks has been established.

3. E-Services of Municipalities and Town Panchayats

The primary objectives of this project are the following:

- The primary objective of this project is to provide an improved and efficient service delivery to the citizens by providing connectivity at ULB's and enabling web enabled services.
- Collect Property tax, Water Charges, Professional Taxes, Company Taxes etc.,
- Receive application for Birth / Death Certificates
- Receive applications for booking of Community halls.
- Receive applications for Trade Licenses
- Receive application for Water / Drainage Connections

- Receive applications for Building permissions
- Monitor status of applications
- To register a grievance petition and view application processing status

Application Systems developed for public use

The following Online citizen services have been designed for public use:

- Online Application for New Water Connection
- Submission of Application and Monitoring the status
- Online Application for repairs related to Water Connection
- Submission of Application and Monitoring the status
- Online Application for Booking of Common Facilities
- Online booking of Community Halls
- Online Booking of Auditorium etc.,
- Online View of Birth Certificate
- View and obtain Death Certificates
- Trade License
- View Property Tax Details
- Public Grievances
 - Register Grievance
 - View Reply

Applications for use at Department level for monitoring delivery of services:

Provision to update the details of Water Connection status is made available for the department user. Similarly, provision to update the allotment details of Community halls is also available. The grievances monitoring and updation can be done online by the concerned department user.

4. E-Services of Transport Department Tamil Nadu

The objective of the project is to provide connectivity at RTO/Unit Offices of State Transport Authority and Reservation Centres of State Express Transport Corporation for enabling web based systems for improved and efficient services delivery to citizens. The systems will offer the following web based services:

a) Regional Transport Offices

- Request for time and date to appear in driving Test
- Request for time and date for learner License
- Block Fancy numbers

- E-payment facility
- Apply for those services where physical presence is not required
- Monitor the status of the application
- Implementing Dedicated LLR Online Test Centre
- Register Grievance and status of Grievance
- View Vehicle Owner Details
- View Driving Licence Holder details
- View Permit Holder details
- View Theft/Stolen vehicle details
- View Conductor License details
- Jurisdiction of RTO offices

b).State Express Transport Corporation

• Block/reserve tickets in State express buses from any location

Applications Systems developed

Applications for Public Use:

The following Application systems have been designed and implemented for the public use:

- Booking appointment for Driving License related transactions
 - o Fresh Driving License
 - o Renewal of Driving License
 - o Additional Endorsement in Driving License
 - Change of Address in Driving License
 - Change of Name in Driving License
 - o Issue of Badge
- Booking appointment for Learner's License related Transactions
 - Fresh learner License
- Public Grievances
 - o Register Grievance
 - o View Reply status
- Locate RTO office based on Jurisdiction
- Provision made for Dealers to update the New vehicle Details for registration to avoid delay in issuing Registration Certificates to Citizens

- View Details of the following by the Transport Department and Police officials
 - o Owner details of a Vehicle
 - o Driving License Holder Details
 - o Theft/Stolen Vehicle details

Applications for Departmental use for monitoring delivery of services:

Applications have been developed and implemented for the Department officials of Transport Dept for making reply to the online booking of appointments / grievances received through the Citizens interface. The system also helps the Officials of Transport and Police Department, to view the Vehicle and License information.

The following facilities are enabled in the applications:

- o Update status of applications received online
- o Reply to Public Grievances
- o Search on Vehicle Chassis Number
- o Search on Vehicle number/Owner name/Vehicle class/Vehicle Type
- Convicted License details
- o Issue of NOC for Driving License
- o Provision to download New vehicle registration data
- o View tax paid for a vehicle
- o View Driving License Details
- o Search on License holder name and Date of Birth
- MIS reports on Grievances registered and appointments booked in RTOs

5. Computerisation of services in Collectorates

Several certificates are being issued by the Revenue department at the Taluk, Divisional office and Collectorate level. A detailed study has been conducted of these services in which issuing of certificates are a major activity. The current process that is being followed has been mapped through the Process Mapping method. Further, the existing process has been studied and a list of suggested modifications has been made in order to improve the efficiency of granting such certificates. Among the certificates, that are being processed with the help of Information Technology the following are being considered and are at various stages of development:- Issuance of Birth certificate, Death Certificate, Solvency Certificate, "No Graduate in the family" Certificate, Certificate for destitute children for admission in orphanages, Destitute Widow certificate for priority in getting job opportunity, Destitute Women certificate, Inter Caste Marriage Certificate for getting assistance from Government and admission in the School, Deserted Women Certificate, "No Government Servants in the Family" Certificate and so on. In some of these, the applicant can also monitor the status of the application. The Common Service Centres that are being setup will also assist the citizen to the extent possible.

6. <u>Computerisation of services in Municipalities</u>

Several Municipalities have developed their own applications and these are on a Client Server Model. While services are being extended in this manner, in order to bring in greater efficiency, it is planned to bring in web based applications. To begin with, Chennai Corporation is now in the process of developing a comprehensive software application through a consultant appointed by ELCOT. This Software application will cover a wide range of activities ranging from Municipal accounting, Works Management, Property Tax, Asset Management, Inventory and Stores Management, Land and Estate Management and so on. As soon as this application is completed it will be rolled out to all the Municipal Corporations in the State. Similarly, a web based application is being for Municipalities. The entire effort is being done through the active involvement of the Department of Municipal Administration.

7. Computerisation of services in Labour and Employment Department.

In the present scenario, the jobseekers have to register themselves at the Employment Exchanges in their districts by visiting them personally along with the relevant records. This has caused a lot of hardship to the jobseekers as they have to commute from their residence to the Employment Exchanges and wait for long hours at the Employment Exchanges to get themselves registered .Due to the influx of the jobseekers, day by day, there is a lot of burden on the Employment Exchanges in discharging their duty. In order to overcome these issues, the Information Technology Department in Government of Tamil Nadu is planning a state-of-the-art employment portal for the Labour and Employment Department. This portal will transform the manual process into online process and due to this the jobseekers can register

themselves at the employment Portal online without visiting the offices personally. This employment portal, will capture all the registrant data including the profiles, scanned copies of certificates and facilitate the end users. Various reports can be generated based on the particulars of those who have registered themselves at the employment portal. The statistics collected from the Employment Portals can be used by the Labour and Employment Department, in formulating new policies and strategies in providing employment.

8. Computerisation of services for BC, MBC and Minority Welfare Department.

Educational Assistance is being provided to the BC/MBC students studying in Government/ Government Aided Arts and Science Colleges by way of Scholarship. Educational Assistance is also provided to the BC/MBC students who wish to pursue professional Courses. Similarly, Educational Assistance is offered for Graduates and Polytechnic students. The process of issuing BC & MBC scholarships is done in a manual way. The existing system does not provide the information on the status of the application or when the applicant will receive the assistance. As such the BC& MBC department has decided to computerise the following services.

- Issuance of Post Metric Scholarships
- Educational Assistance to the students in Professional courses
- Educational Assistance to graduates.
- Educational Assistance to Polytechnic students.

The Information Technology department in Government of Tamil Nadu will act as a facilitator in computerising the above services

9. Computerisation of services for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department

Educational Assistance is offered to Adi Dravidar students by way of scholarships. The process of issuing scholarships is done in a manual way. The existing system does not provide the information on the status of the application or when the applicant will receive the assistance. In order to streamline the process, the Information Technology Department in the Government of Tamil Nadu along with the active support of the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department has proposed to computerize the following services

- Scholarship for SC students, offered for by Government of India.
- Scholarship for ST students, offered for by Government of India
- Post Metric Scholarships for ST students, offered by the State
- Special Post Metric Scholarship , offered by the State
- Educational Assistance to SC/ST/SCC Students upto Degree
- Educational Assistance to SC/ST/SCC Students studying PG
- Higher Education Special Scholarship Scheme.

10. Computerisation of services in Commercial Tax Department

The Information Technology Department in the Government of Tamil Nadu along with the active support of the Commercial Taxes Department has proposed to computerize the following services

- Enforcement
- Check post
- Territorial
- Appellate

The first two modules have been completed and the third module is under progress. First batch of training is to be given to the users of pilot locations. The software for e – filing and e – payment services has been developed by NIC. The software maintenance will be done through NIC.

<u>CHAPTER – IV</u>

4.1 ICT ACADEMY OF TAMIL NADU

The ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu (ICTACT) is a unique effort that combines the involvement of Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu and Industry

represented by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). While the Industry represented by major IT corporates will take a prominent role in administering the Academy, providing the curriculum content, ensure inflow of the latest teaching methodologies and anchor the program, the Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India will provide financial and other inputs to support the industry effort.

To improve the quality of teaching faculty and thereby ensuring that students passing out of institutes and colleges in Tamil Nadu and to make them industry ready and immediately employable in the ICT industry comprising the ICT services and the ICT Manufacturing sectors, the ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu has been established under the Societies Registration Act, 1975. The Academy will meet the skill requirements of the industry and generate more employment in the state, especially in Tier - II and Tier - III cities. To improve the skill level of students in the state, ICTACT will develop and maintain a world class ICT industry related curriculum and content in close association with Academia and provide specialized training to the faculties in the Engineering, Arts and Science Colleges, ITI and Polytechnics across Tamil Nadu. It will also encourage Curriculum related research in collaboration with leading institutes in India and abroad. ICTACT will train around 5000 faculties across Tamil Nadu in three years which will benefit over 2,50,000 students across the state. The Government of India has appreciated this move and sanctioned a grant of Rs.600 lakhs for this project. The first installment of Rs.400 lakhs has been received. A number of leading IT-ITES Industries have come forward to take part in this project through the CII. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been represented on the Advisory Board of the Academy through the Secretaries to Government, Higher Education, Labour and Employment and Industries Departments on the Advisory Board and also the Secretary, Information Technology, and the Chief Executive Officer, TNeGA on the Governing Board of the Academy.

4.2 IT FINISHING SCHOOL

All the top 10 IT companies of India have major operations in Tamil Nadu. The IT/ITES industry is in need of a large number of quality manpower for its operations. Recognizing the importance of the need for quality manpower, the Government has begun training students in IT Finishing Schools in Chennai and in all the District Headquarters which would then improve the employability of the students awaiting

employment. The training is being carried out by a professional training agency, Sun-itech.

The IT Finishing Schools will be a Centre of Excellence to develop quality manpower to cater to the needs of IT/ITES companies. The objective of the Finishing School is to conduct short term training programmes to the students belonging to the economically weaker sections, in collaboration with IT/ITES companies and help secure placement after training. The focus is on students belonging to Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, Most Backward and Backward Classes and other weaker communities of the society. Much of the funding will be generated from schemes available in the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes & Minorities Welfare and Adi Dravidar &Tribal Welfare Departments. About 7000 candidates sponsored by Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation(TAHDCO) are now being trained in all rural districts of Tamil Nadu and this effort will be completed in 2009-2010.

4.3 SOCIETY FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS AND SECURITY (SETS)

SETS is a specialized organization, registered as a non-profit society, set up for the purpose of developing technologies that can protect the information wealth of the country. The Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India is the present Chairman of this organization.

Membership: - The membership comprises of Government, the Public and Private sectors of Corporate, R & D and academia. Also SETS has individual members with expertise in the field of information security. SETS have its Board of Members and Research and Technology Development Advisory Council which provides expert advice on its activities in order to achieve the goals of SETS.

The prominent features and details are enumerated below:-

- Activities such as Cryptanalysis, analysis & design of cryptography and other security algorithms
- Analysis and design of cryptology protocols
- Analysis and design of secure information systems and security policy

SETS works with industry and other collaborators on specific projects, either on a oneto-one basis or on a consortium R & D basis. SETS participates in the prototype development activities on a project-basis with a concept called 'project stream'.

Government of India has sanctioned the creation of an Advanced Facility for Information Security and Cryptology (AFISC) at a cost of Rs.24.50 Crores and the Government of Tamil Nadu has provided 2.9 acres of land at MGR Knowledge City, Taramani under a long term lease agreement for construction of a building. Till the completion of the construction of the building, SETS has been accommodated in a rental building in the premises of an LLA Building. The Government of Tamil Nadu is represented on the Board of SETS and is benefited by valuable inputs due to this association in areas concerning electronic security.

4.4 INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING (IIITD & M), KANCHEEPURAM

The Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITD & M), Kancheepuram is a National Centre of Excellence for technical education and research established by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of The Department of Information Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu is India. represented on the Board of Management and is actively associated in facilitating and setting up of IIITD&M. The Institute is fully funded by the Government of India and offers undergraduate, post graduate and research programs in computer, electronics and mechanical engineering with specialization in engineering product design and manufacturing. The academic programs follow strong 'practice based learning' approach with emphasis on creating world class, design and manufacturing engineers. The institute focuses on education and research, in the areas of IT design and manufacturing using state of the art concepts, tools and the latest global practices in this field. An extent of 41.21 hectares (101.75 acres) of land at Melakottaiyur and Nallambakkam villages in Kancheepuram District has been leased in favour of the Institute. The Institute currently operates at IIT, Madras campus and will move to its own campus, once the building / infrastructural facilities are completed. The intake is currently limited to 60 and will be increased once the new campus is operational.

CHAPTER-V

ARASU CABLE TV CORPORATION LIMITED

Tamil Nadu ranks high in the market potential for Cable TV Industry, amongst the States of India. In view of the frequent complaints received from the viewers as well as Local Cable TV Operators and Multi System Operators regarding the non-availability of the channels at reasonable cost and also the poor quality of the service, the Government of Tamil Nadu launched Arasu Cable TV Corporation. The main objective of the Corporation is to provide high quality Cable TV Service at reasonable cost to the public through Local Cable Operators.

Arasu Cable TV Corporation has set up Digital Head Ends at Thanajavur, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Vellore utilizing the state-of-the art equipment. Arasu Cable TV is carrying out works in the districts to facilitate distribution of the signals. So far Rs.25 Crores as share capital and Rs.36.35 Crores as Loan has been sanctioned by the Government to implement the project. A Welfare Board has been constituted by the Government to safeguard the welfare of the Cable TV Operators. The modalities for implementing the welfare schemes through this Board are being worked out and will be implemented shortly.

CHAPTER - VI TAMIL VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

During the valedictory function of Tamil Net'99 on 8.2.99, Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced, among others, that the Government of Tamil Nadu would take expeditious steps in the following matters to promote and encourage the use of Tamil in Information Technology.

The Tamil Virtual University was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 17-02-2001 with a view to cater to the needs of the Tamils, living outside Tamil Nadu to enable them to be in touch with their language, culture and arts and to keep alive their traditions and values.

The Tamil Virtual University aims at providing Internet based resources and opportunities for the Tamil Communities living in different parts of the globe as well as others interested in learning Tamil and acquiring knowledge of the history, art, literature and culture of the Tamils.

The TVU was registered as a society and it is governed by a Board of Directors comprising of 7 to 9 Directors.

The key activities carried out by Tamil Virtual University are:-

- Various web based Academic Programmes from alphabet to advance Degree level.
- Organizing an e-Library and Cultural Video Gallery.
- Tamil Software Developments for various applications.
- Software for reading inscriptions dating from ancient period.
- Virtual classrooms conducted by eminent Tamil scholars.
- Publication of lessons, e-Books and Technical Glossaries.
- Standardization of Tamil encoding and application of Tamil in mobile phones.

6.1 Academic Programmes

TVU offers integrated Diploma, Higher Diploma and BA (Tamilology) Degree Programme. Preparation of lessons for Post Graduation in Tamil (MA) are in progress. TVU also offers Certificate Courses and Higher certificate courses from standard 1 to +2.

6.2 Registration, Virtual classroom and Examinations

From more than 61 countries, 7334 students have registered for BA Tamil Degree and Certificate Courses. TVU has 31 Coordinating Centres in 19 Countries.

A Virtual Class Room with video conferencing equipments along with a streaming server and high speed internet connectivity has been established in TVU which strengthen and augment virtual education programmes.

Online and Written-Offline examinations are being conducted periodically.

Award of Certificates and Degrees as follows

SI.No	Number of Students	Examination passed
1.	92	Certificate Examinations.
2	34	Diploma Examinations.
3	54	Higher Diploma Examinations
4.	28	B.A Degree Examination.

6.3 <u>Visitors</u>

Every day approximately 700 persons visit the website of TVU. Most of them read lessons and use the e-library. Till date 19.3 lakh persons have viewed the TVU websites.

6.4 Digital Library

TVU has established a Digital Library on its website which comprises of a collection of Tamil Literature. It provides a view window into the culture, history and Books heritage of the Tamils. on literature such as Sanga Ilakkiyam, Pathinenkeezhkanakku, Kaapiyangal, Samaya Ilakkiyangal, Chitrilakkiyangal. Thirattu Noolgal, Neri Noolgal, Rural literature Books and Dictionaries etc., are already provided in the Digital Library and some books on modern literature are being added now. Currently, 377 books are available in the Digital Library.

TVU aims to provide a minimum of 50,000 books in its website. A few books such as Tholkappiyam, Pathuppattu, and Ettuthogai are provided in Roman script version and action is being taken to provide all the books in such version in due course. Tamil programmes oriented to tourism in Tamil Nadu are being developed to assist those who plan to tour Tamil Nadu.

6.5 Heritage and Cultural Programmes

Video clippings of Folk Arts and dances like Karakattam, Mayilattam, Oyilattam and Bharatha Nattiyam have been included in the website. Efforts are being taken to provide cultural programmes in the website which will also be made available in the form of CDs.

6.6 Tamil Software Development Fund

In G.O.Ms.No.8.I.T.Department Dated:6-05-1999, Government of Tamil Nadu have set up TAMIL SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FUND and in G.O.Ms.No.21.I.T.Department Dated:29-06-1999, orders were issued sanctioning a grant of Rs.One crore towards Governments Contribution to the initial corpus of Tamil Software Development Fund so as to encourage the development of tools and software in Tamil. A Tamil OCR Software and English-Tamil Machine Aided Translation Packages have been released. The project Tamil Word Net to enhance Machine Translation. Tamil Linux, Localising Windows, and Optical Character Recognition Software for Tamil Handwriting-phase I, and Localization for Tamil in Mobile Phones is now in progress.

6.7 Standardization of Tamil Software

Government of Tamil Nadu have standardized the Tamil 99 and Typewriter keyboards for data entry and TAB and TAM encoding for Tamil Characters to facilitate smooth data exchange among files and programs. This will enable developers to have effective tools. TVU has certified 20 software's having compatibility with TAM, TAB encoding.

6.8 Release of Technical Glossaries

30 Glossaries in different disciplines are available with more than 2 lakh technical terms. Technical Glossaries at the cost of Rs.27 lakhs are being reviewed, standardized and prepared department wise in 14 volumes. The first volume has already been released and six more volumes are being prepared for printing will be made available soon.

6.9 Standardization of Tamil Encoding – TACE-16

The Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a Task Force Committee for testing on TACE-16 vide G.O(2D) No.6 IT Department dated 28.03.2007 and has sanctioned an amount of Rs.20,00,000/-... The Unicode consortium has constituted South Asian Sub-committee for taking further action on TACE 16. The recommendations are under serious consideration of the Unicode consorting.

6.10 Tamil usage in Cell Phones:

TVU has taken necessary action for the usage of Tamil in cell phones for which it has constituted a Committee. The committee has analyzed five proposals, out of which one keyboard has been selected and further processing is on.

6.11 Thirukkural with search facility:

CDs for Thirukkural with five commentaries and two translations are released as available in TVU e-library with search facility.

6.12 Web-enabled Palm Leaves in TVU website:

The Palm leaves collected by Dr.U.V.Saminathan lyer, are made available on the website with search and zooming facilities with corresponding Tamil Text.

6.13 Building For TVU

As per the announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Rs.100 Lakhs has been sanctioned for construction of a building of TVU in 2 acres of Land alienated at Kotturpuram, Chennai by the Government for the purpose. The construction is going to begin soon.

6.14 NEW SCHEMES FOR THE YEAR 2009-2010

(i) Production of e-Lectures for subjects offered by Tamil Virtual University

The Government of Tamil Nadu allotted Rs. 25,00,000/- for procurement of estudio equipments for Tamil Virtual University, under the Part-II scheme for the year 2007-2008 and these e-studio equipments are commissioned already. It is now proposed to produce e-Lecture Series on various subjects offered by TVU using these equipments and to make them available in the TVU website so that students throughout the world can make use of this facility. The Contact Centres also requested for such facility. An amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget 2009-2010 for implementing this scheme.

(ii) <u>To provide acoustic and light control for the TVU e-studio</u>

The Tamilnadu Government has sanctioned 2 acres of land in Kotturpuram and Rs. 1 Crore for the construction of a building exclusively for the Tamil Virtual University.

All arrangements are being made for the construction of the TVU building which includes an e-studio. The e-studio has to be provided with facilities like acoustic arrangements, lights, air conditioning, etc. An amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget 2009-2010 for implementing this scheme.

CHAPTER - VII

IT PARKS IN TAMIL NADU

Government of Tamil Nadu, through ELCOT, has been developing IT Parks in Tier-II Cities such as Coimbatore, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli, and Salem & Hosur with a plan to penetrate all regions in the state with Infrastructural arrangements that would facilitate the growth of the IT Sector. As a result of a planned approach, these IT parks have attracted much participation from major players in the business.

7.1 IT-ITES SEZ AT SHOLINGANALLUR NEAR CHENNAI

Major Multinational Companies such as M/s. HCL, M/s. WIPRO, M/s. Satyam Computers, M/s. Cognizant Technology Solutions, M/s. Scope International and M/s. Sutherland Global Services have been allotted land in the ELCOT 'IT Specific' Special Economic Zone(SEZ) at Sholinganallur. Construction of individual buildings by some of the above IT Companies and Development of Basic Infrastructural Facilities are now being carried out to have a full fledged IT Park at Sholinganallur. M/s. WIPRO campus is now functioning in a full-fledged manner.

7.2 IT-ITES SEZ AT SHOLINGANALLUR- PERUMBAKKAM

ELCOT proposes to set up an integrated IT Township at Sholinganallur & Perumbakkam villages for which the Government of India has given SEZ status. In this IT Township spreading over 199 acres of land, ELCOT has planned to develop 10 Million sq.ft of IT built up space and also provide other basic social infrastructural facilities like Housing, Medical facility, School and commercial & entertainment facilities. However, due to the current economic scenario initial assessments and viability studies are underway.

7.3 IT PARK IN COIMBATORE

Coimbatore has been identified as one of the Tier-II Cities for establishment of an IT Park. In this city, ELCOT in association with TIDCO, TIDEL Park Chennai & Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) are jointly establishing an IT Park measuring 17.11 lakh sq.ft. The foundation stone for this project was laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 24th February 2007. The work on this project is progressing steadily and is likely to be completed by December 2009. Apart from the above IT Park, major IT player M/s. WIPRO has been allotted land to establish their IT premises and have begun construction.

7.4 IT PARKS IN MADURAI

Two SEZ IT Parks has been planned by ELCOT in Madurai District one at Ilandhaikulam village and the other at Vadapalanji and Kinnimangalam Villages. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu laid the foundation stone for these two IT Parks on 26.4.2008. In Ilandhaikulam IT Park, land has been allotted to M/s. HCL, M/s. Honeywell International India and M/s. Tessolve Services and in Vadapalanji – Kinnimangalam IT Park, land has been allotted to M/s. HCL Ltd, M/s. Sutherland Global Services & M/s. Satyam Computers. Basic Infrastructural facilities required for these two parks are now being developed by ELCOT.

7.5 IT PARK IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

An IT-ITES Special Economic Zone has been established at Tiruchirappalli in an extent of 147.61 acres of land by ELCOT. M/s. Sutherland Global Services has been allotted land in this Park and other requests are being processed. Basic Infrastructural facilities are now being developed by ELCOT.

7.6 IT PARK IN SALEM

An IT Park has been planned at Salem in an extent of 164.26 acres by ELCOT. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has laid the foundation stone for this IT Park on 14.9.2007.

7.7 IT PARK IN TIRUNEVELI

An IT-ITES Special Economic Zone has been planned at Tirunelveli in an extent of 500 acres of land by ELCOT. There is good response from IT-ITES Companies seeking allotment of land in this IT Park. Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for this project on 17.6.2007.

7.8 IT PARK IN HOSUR

An IT-ITES Special Economic Zone has been established at Hosur in an extent of 174.47 acres of land by ELCOT. Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for this IT Park on 26.2.2008.

7.9 IT PARK IN VELLORE

Based on the announcement made by Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Budget Speech 2008-09, a new Information Technology Park will be set up in Vellore district by ELCOT in partnership with the private sector. The land for the IT Park is being identified by ELCOT in consultation with the District Collector, Vellore.

> Dr. Poongothai Minister For Information Technology