

Copy of:

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Abstract

Conservation and Development of Cultural and historical towns in Tamilnadu -
Preparation of Blue Print - Orders - Issued.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.163

Dated: 6th July 1993

Read:

From the Chairman, Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation Limited
D.O.No. Nil dated 29.10.91.

ORDER:

While inaugurating the Dance Festival of Mamallapuram on 15.1.1992, Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed her deep concern for the deterioration in the general environment and particularly the worsening sanitary conditions, Hon'ble Chief Minister referred to the environmental deterioration caused to our priceless heritage towns through unplanned urban sprawl and exhorted that the State and Central Governments should join together in a big way and come forward to take up conservation and development of these towns for the benefit of posterity.

2. With a view to chalking out a programme, a team of officials set on 23.1.92.
3. At the meeting, the urgency to prepare a programme of action was reiterated and the objectives as follows were outlined:-

The programme envisages-

- a) Beautification of towns;
- b) Urban planning
- c) Restriction of construction;
- d) Creation of Area Development Authority;
- e) Provision of amenities for towns;
- f) Relieving congestion in towns;
- g) Creating new growth centres at peripheral areas
- h) Creating car parks, bus stands;
- i) Communication facilities;

- j) Provision of parks, lighting, water, underground sewerage and other infrastructure facilities;
- k) Shopping arcade;
- l) Outlets for handicrafts

4. The programme will cover the cultural and historical towns in the State and the sites which are taken as "Priceless". The participant expressed that conservation should go beyond preservation of monuments and encompass the whole built-up areas and not just development of new areas. The participants were of the view that rules and regulations should be amended to encourage the conservation of living environment and direct fiscal and other incentives should be offered to encourage the individuals to conserve places and sites.

5. The following suggestions were made at the meeting:-

i) Immediate preparation of Development plans for the cultural, heritage and historical towns mentioned in the annexure to this order;

ii) Identification of the Directorate of Town and Country Planning as the Nodal agency for preparation of Development plans for the towns in consultation with the Directorate of Municipal Administration, Directorate of Tourism, the Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation and other organisations interested or involved in the preservation, conservation and development of the towns chosen.

iii) Taking up the work on priority basis and getting ready the project reports on a time-bound basis. Consultants and Professionals may be associated in the preparation of plans.

iv) Development plans should focus on 'Improvement to Environmental Sanitation' for the towns in general and in particular to the immediate precincts of places of historical and cultural heritage, like temples, monuments, mosques, churches and places of archaeological interest.

(v) Funding of the programme may not pose a problem as many of the projects to be identified may form an integral part of programmes for which sectoral allocations are available. Besides institutional funding, special funds like Town and Country Planning Board Fund can be utilised. The Government of India and the World Bank can also be approached.

(vi) A small Working Group with Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Secretary, Information and Tourism Department, Director of Town and Country Planning, Commissioner of Municipal Administration, Director of Town Panchayats and Director of

Tourism as members may be constituted. This Working Group will monitor the preparation of Action Plans on a time-bound basis.

6. After a careful examination, the Government issue the following orders:-

i) The towns mentioned in the Annexure to this order shall be declared as Heritage Towns.

ii) The Director of Town and Country Planning shall act as the Nodal Agency to prepare the Development plan for the towns.

iii) The Director of Town and Country Planning is empowered to appoint consultants and professionals for the preparation of development plans.

7. The Government constitute a Working Group with Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Secretary, Information and Tourism Department, Director of Town and Country Planning, Commissioner of Municipal Administration, Director of Town Panchayats and Director of Tourism to monitor the preparation of Action Plan on a time-bound basis.

8. The Director of Town and Country Planning is requested to take follow up action in the matter. He is also requested to send a report on the action taken in the matter to Government.

(By order of the Governor)

R.Arumugham,
Secretary to Government.

To

The Director of Town and Country Planning, Madras-600 002.

The Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and
Water Supply Department, Madras-600 009.

The Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban Development
Department, Madras-9.

The Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Madras-9.

The Commissioner of Municipal Administration, Madras-600 005.

The Director of Tourism, Madras-9.

The Director of Town Panchayats, Madras-103.

ANNEXURE

1. Kancheepuram
2. Chidambaram
3. Rameswaram
4. Srirangam
5. Srivilliputhur
6. Mahabalipuram
7. Thanjavur
8. Kumbakonam
9. Gangaikondacholapuram
10. Poompuhar
11. Madurai
12. Palani
13. Tiruchendur
14. Thiruthani
15. Kanyakumari
16. Thiruvannamalai
17. Gingee
18. Chettinad
19. Valinockam
20. Tranquebar (Tharangambadi)
21. Nagore
22. Velankanni
23. Courtallam.

R.ARUMUGHAM
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT