

Former Chief Minister Selvi.j. Jayalalithaa's Free Distribution of Goats, Sheep and Cows Schemes - A Study

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Abstract

India is a welfare state, but there is only one state that firmly went ahead with welfare measures that was the state of Tamil Nadu. Ms. Jayalalithaa became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for 16 years and she was famous for her welfare schemes. The significant role of the welfare scheme was to protect the wellbeing of the children, destitute women, senior citizens and third gender. She initiated a scheme called "Free distribution of Goat, Sheep and Milk Cows", for the poor beneficiaries in the rural areas in order to enhance their standard of living. Under this scheme, the people belong to backward areas in various districts of the state were mostly benefited. This scheme was creating another "White Revolution" in Tamil Nadu. The Government was distributed 60,000 milk Cows on free of cost to the poor people and also distributed Goat and sheep on free of cost to the needy beneficiaries across a period of 5 years. This scheme also uplifts the economic position of Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Welfare Scheme, Women beneficiaries, White Revolution, Village Panchayats, Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Services, Co-operative Society.

INTRODUCTION

Scheme for Free Distribution of Goats and Sheep

On 9th July, 2011 the former Chief Minister Ms. Jayalalithaa announced a new scheme called as "Scheme for Free Distribution of Goats and Sheep". This scheme was launched on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of C.N. Annadurai. Under this scheme, 4 Goats and sheep were distributed in free of cost to 7 lakhs poorest of the poor landless families over a period of 5 years at an expenditure of total Rs. 925 crores. The Goats were available in the following varieties like Salem black, Kanni Aadu, Kodi Aadu, Non-descriptive goat, Pallai Aadu and Molai Aadu. Meichery, Madras Red, Trichy Black, Ramnad White, Vembur, Nilgris and Keezha Karisal are the types of sheep available in Tamil Nadu. These Goats and Sheep were procured from the local market shan dies within the state.

Eligibility Criteria

- The beneficiaries must be a permanent resident of the Village Panchayat and they are the Landless Agriculture Laborers.
- The beneficiaries must be 30% belonging to SC/ST Category.

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Through the scheme, the actual beneficiary was the women household. Transgender, Widows, Destitute and Disabled Women are also eligible for this scheme.

- ☐ The beneficiary household must have at least one member between the ages of 18 and 60 affectively rear the Goats and sheep.
- ☐ The beneficiaries didn't own any cow and goats/sheep at present.
- ☐ For this scheme, the beneficiaries must not be an employee of Central or State Government and other organization.
- ☐ The beneficiary should not have benefitted from the free Milk Cows Distribution Scheme of the government.

Distribution of Animals

- ☐ Out of 4, Goats and Sheep was given to each beneficiary one male and 3 females is must be about six to eight months of age.
- ☐ All Goats/Sheep were distributed under this scheme were bear a unique identification Tag with a unique code number in the left ear.
- ☐ The beneficiaries don't sell the Goats and sheep distributed by the government for a minimum period of two years.
- ☐ The Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services are responsible to take necessary steps for the scheme.
- ☐ Transportation of animals must comply with the provisions of "Transportation of Animal Rules, 1978" under the "Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960".
- ☐ After the Goats/Sheep are brought to the Village, the photograph of the Goats/Sheep bearing the same Tag Number as in the shandy during purchase were taken along with the beneficiary, any two members of the earmarked beneficiary Committee and the Livestock Inspector of the area before her house in the village. After this, the Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Assistant Surgeon were giving the seed money of Rs. 500 per animal and balance of the cost of the animals and the transportation cost in the form of a cheque.

Scheme for Free Distribution of Milk Cows

In order to usher another White Revolution, Ms. Jayalalithaa, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced the Scheme for the distribution of Milk Cows on 9th July, 2011. This scheme was launched on 15th September, 2011 on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Perarignar Anna. The government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 232 crores for implementation of the scheme over a period of five years from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016. This scheme was prioritized in those districts, where the number of Milk Co-operative Societies is less than the number of revenue villages. In such districts, the distribution of Milk Cows was taken because those Village Panchayat where there are no Primary Milk Co-operative Societies. The state was supplied cross bred cows like Jersey Cows in the plains and cross bred Holstein- Friesian cows in the hilly areas as per the breeding policy. These Milk Cows were procured from outside the state and purchasing by the beneficiaries themselves. An amount of Rs. 30,000 is earmarked for the purchase of a milk cow per beneficiary. In addition to, an amount of Rs. 1000 is allocated for the travel to the shan dies of the neighboring state for the purchase of animal and another Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 were given for transportation of animal to their village through a secured manner.

Eligibility Criteria

- ☐ Women of the household were eligible for this scheme. Transgender, widows, destitute and disabled women also get the priority. They are below 60 years of age.
- ☐ Milk Cows are procured at the rate of 1 cow per eligible household. The age of the cow should not exceed 5 years.

- The beneficiaries must be a resident of Village Panchayat and don't have their own land over 1 acre in their name or in the name of their family members.
- The beneficiaries should not be an employee of Central and State Government or any Organization, Cooperative or member of any Local Body.
- The beneficiaries don't own any cows or buffaloes at present and they were conformed not to benefit from the free distribution of goats and sheep scheme.
- The beneficiaries must be belonging to the BPL (Below Poverty Line) or Scheduled Castes (29%) or Scheduled Tribes (1%) Category.

Distribution of Cows

- Cross bred cows were purchased from shan-dies in other states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- The Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Assistant Surgeon were examining the cows to ensure their good health and the conformity to the norms.
- Tag with a unique code was placed in the left ear of the cows.
- According to the norms, the beneficiaries should not sell the cow for a period of minimum 4 years.
- Primary Milk Co-operative Societies were procured the milk from day one onwards without any delay.
- A photograph was arranged by the Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry/ Veterinary Assistant Surgeon to be taken on the spot of purchase showing the Milk Cow, the beneficiary (or her representative), Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and the Seller. The Identification Tag with the unique number has to be prominently seen in the Photograph.

Training of Beneficiaries

Since all the Beneficiaries are the first time animal owners, they may not have sufficient knowledge required for rearing Milk Cows, Goats and sheep that are provided to them. In order to empower them with the necessary skills training were provided for 3 days to all the beneficiaries. The first training was provided prior to purchase of animals. This is done to provide information on selection of the healthy animals based on predefined criteria. The Second training was provided on 10th day post purchase. The training was provided to them covering various aspects of Milk Cows, Goats and Sheep rearing including feeding management, milking, breeding management, care of pregnant does, cows/heifers, care of calves and kids etc. The training programme was provided by the University Training and Research Centers of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University in coordination with the Animal Husbandry Department officials. The beneficiaries get the training for 3 days at locations near their villages and the cost for training were provided from the funds allocated under Training.

Post-Purchase Follow Up by the Department

- The VAS concerned gave health cards to the beneficiaries and they visit the villages once in a month for the animals procured under the scheme that not completed one year from the date of procurement and once in three months for the animals procured under the Scheme that have completed one year from the date of procurement to ensure that the Goat/Sheep and Cows are given proper vaccination, de-worming and other Veterinary services as required. The Livestock inspectors were assisting with the VAS in the regard.
- The Post Purchase follows up and health camps were conducted in each beneficiary village on the last Saturday (preferably during January, April, July and October).
- Necessary technical guidance and follow up should be given to the beneficiaries and also proper measures taken to ensure that the entire Cow, Goats/Sheep procures conceive as early as possible.

☐ The District Collectors must conduct a meeting every week with the Regional Joint Director of Animal Husbandry concerned, Deputy Director (CBFD) of Animal Husbandry Department and review the progress of the Scheme on the following points.

☐ Achievement of target of purchase of animals.

☐ Post-Purchase inspection format of the VAS/Livestock, which sent to the Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services every Monday.

☐ Periodical Artificial insemination to Milk Cows within 3 months after Calving.

☐ Number of cases in which insurance for mortality cases of the animals is to be claimed and also the stats of repurchase of animals after claiming the insurance amount.

☐ Number of Goat kids/lambs born to Goat/Sheep distributed so far.

☐ Quantity of Milk procured on an average per day.

☐ Supply of feed through Milk Producers Co-operative Societies as part payment.

☐ Special relaxation for retention of Male Goats. There have been various representations all across the State that the Male Goats become very ferocious and difficult to handle by women beneficiaries after one year of purchase. It has been represented that, if the Male Goat has serviced the three female goats, then it permitted to be sold after the one year completion of the purchase. The VAS/ADAH must ensure that such Male Goats are de-tagged before disposal and corresponding entry made in the concerned register.

☐ The District Collectors ensure that the deputy Register (Diary) takes immediate action to form new Primary Milk Producers Co-operative Societies with the beneficiaries of the Scheme and Milk is procured from day one onwards without any delay.

☐ In the event of death of the beneficiary within the agreement period, the Milk Cow was maintained under the custodianship of the legal heir (daughter/daughter in law/Mother in law/Mother). In case if the legal heir is most a woman then the Milk Cow were handed over to a male member. The legal heir Certificate was obtained. Necessary approval from District Collectors was obtained in this regard.

☐ The Secretary of Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department may in consultation with Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, change any of the above guidelines based on the exigencies that will arise then and there.

Conclusion

Animal Husbandry is an integral component of agriculture supporting livelihood of more than two-third of the rural population. To improve the living standard of poor rural families former Chief Minister Ms. Jayalalithaa launching the flagship scheme of "Free Distribution of Milk Cows, Goats and Sheep" to poor people in rural areas. This scheme made a major socio-economic impact on the rural poor people. The estimated milk production, which was 54.74 lakh Metric Tonnes during 2005- '06 in Tamil Nadu, has increased to 72.44 lakh Metric Tonnes during 2015- '16. Likewise, the estimated meat production, which was 1,186 lakh k.gs during 2005- '06 has increased to 5,444 lakh k.gs during 2015-'16 and Tamil Nadu was ranked 10th in milk production and 6th in meat production during 2015-2016.

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