

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Banwarilal Purohit distributed Assistance from the Governor's Discretionary Grant for Rs.43 lakhs to 2585 children and aged persons

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu distributed Assistance from the Governor's Discretionary Grant for Rs.43 lakhs to 2585 children and aged persons for 18 institutions at Raj Bhavan today (07.09.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor addressed that, "I am delighted to be here today at the Annual Grants Function of the Raj Bhavan, at which 18 institutions are participating along with their students, inmates and representatives. The day marks a special occasion for the Raj Bhavan in that, this is the first time that such a function is being organised to provide life supporting and utility equipment to those in need on such a large scale.

Social service, which is synonymous with helping people in need, has always been a part of the Indian tradition. It has always been a part of the tradition of India to care for the weak, the poor and the suffering.

Swami Vivekananda who interpreted the essence of India's Sanathana Dharma, about a 100 years back said and I quote, "It is a privilege to serve mankind, for this is the worship of God. God is here, in all these human souls. He is the soul of man."

Veda Vyasa also elucidated the greatness of helping people by stating succinctly in two words – '*paropakarah punyaya*' – *Helping others is the best virtue.*

In a similar vein Jesus Christ said, "Know thou, that in the service of the fellowmen, do thou serveth me."

In Islam it is ordained that, Charity is a duty unto every Muslim; "He who hath the means let him do a good act and abstain from an evil one. That is his charity" said Prophet Mohammed.

Tamil literature has particularly eulogized the lives of great kings who have considered the welfare of their subjects as more important than their comforts.

It is this spirit of compassion and love to extend all possible help to the underprivileged and needy that has made people join hands for a noble cause thus giving birth to many voluntary and social service organizations such as the ones who have come today."

Hon'ble Governor added that "The equipments being distributed today include School bags, Bicycles, Cooking Utensils, Uniforms, Chairs, Ceiling Fans, Steel Bureaus, Wet Grinders, Televisions and other materials to help the differently abled persons etc., There is also a Brain Stimulator machine for the treatment of mentally retarded children.

The value of the assistance distributed today is about Rs.43 lakhs. The needs of the children and the elderly were first obtained from the institutions and the amount earmarked to each one of them based on their assessment of needs so as to enable them to purchase the right kind of items and in the right quantity. The function in a way is therefore a clear illustration of the success of a consultative process that has been followed.

In this context let me quote Mother Teresa who said, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things".

I congratulate the societies and organisations who have come here today for pursuing the objective of bringing about an improvement in societal welfare with zeal and vigour. The dedicated manner with which they have been going about their activities deserves my praise.

I convey my best wishes and greetings to the office bearers and members of all the organisations. May success smile on you in all your noble initiatives.

To the children assembled here let me say, a bright future beckons you. The path to prosperity is illumined by the lamp of education. Study well, apply yourselves fully to the task at hand. It is certain that you will be greeted with success. May the blessings of God be showered on all of you in abundant measure".

All the arrangements are made on the instructions of the Hon'ble Governor. The Additional Chief Secretary to Governor, Thiru. R. Rajagopal I.A.S., had made special arrangements for special pandal was erected in the lawns of Raj Bhavan to protect the children from the rain and thereafter High tea was provided to all the children and the teachers of the institutions.

On this occasion, 2585 persons belonging to 18 Institutions including Orphanage Homes such as Sardhak Educational Trust, Aalayam, S.O.S. Children's Village of India, Seed Home, Saranalaya Children Home, Lord Jesus Church Trust, Christ King Home and Sevalaya, Homes for differently abled such as Prema Vasam, Guild Of Service, The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu, Neuro Science India Group (Buddhi Clinic), National Association for the Blind, Saksham, National Institute for Multiple Disabilities, Tamil Nadu Mentally Challenge Special Children Parents Association and Old age Homes such as Sree Saratha Sakthi Peetam and Sivananda Saraswathi Sevashram and other dignitaries participated.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Sd/-

Date : 07.09.2019

Joint Director (PR)