

## National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

### I. Objective / purpose

#### VISION:

A society, where all persons are free from undeserved want and deprivation, and lead a dignified life.

#### MISSION

To reach out to and provide social security to vulnerable sections of society, particularly those living below the poverty line.

#### Brief History

The NSAP was launched on August 15, 1985 - (a) to ensure national minimum standards of social assistance for vulnerable groups and (b) to be an addition to the benefits that States are currently providing or might provide in future.

At inception NSAP comprised of (i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), (ii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) and (iii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS). The scheme, Annapurna was introduced on 1.4.2000 for providing 10 kg of free food grains to those not covered under NOAPS. The NMBS was transferred to Ministry of Health in 2001-02 and became part of Janani Suraksha Yojana.

NSAP was transferred to the State Plan w.e.f. 2002-03 and funds are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA). **The responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, sanction of benefits and disbursement of the same vests with the respective State Government/UT Administration.** With the rate of the Old Age Pension Scheme being increased to ₹ 200 per month w.e.f. 1.4.2006 from ₹ 75 per month per beneficiary and the introduction of two new Pension Schemes, one each for widows and the disabled in February 2009 with a rate of ₹ 200/- p.m. per beneficiary, the NSAP emerged as one of the important social security programmes. The States were requested to contribute another ₹ 200 from their own resources so that a beneficiary could get at least ₹ 400 per month.

#### Duties

- Provisional inter-state allocation of funds and sending recommendation to Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Home Affairs for release of funds for first quarter beginning April
- Conducting Nodal Officers Meetings/ Performance Review Committee Meetings
- Formulating policies & guidelines for better implementation of Schemes in States/UTs to include more vulnerable groups of society.
- Placing the copies of sanction orders etc. in public domain

- Prompt Grievance Redressal relating to delay in providing the recommendations for release of funds/ Poor monitoring of schemes under NSAP

**Main activities/functions**

Same as above

**List of services being provided**

Same as above

**Organizational structure diagram at various levels namely State, directorate, region district, block etc.**

Not applicable for NSAP

**Expectation from the public for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency**

Not applicable for NSAP.

**Arrangements and methods made for seeking public participation/contribution**

Not applicable for NSAP.

**Mechanism available for monitoring the service delivery and public grievance resolution:**

- ❖ Conducting Nodal Officers Meetings/ Performance Review Committee Meetings
- ❖ CPGRAMS

**II. Powers and Duties of officers and employees**

Presently the details of work assigned among the Officers/officials of the NSAP Division is as under:

**Work Assigned among Officers:-**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name and designation of Officers</b>	<b>Work Assigned</b>
1	Shri T. Srinivas Director (NSAP)	All work related to administration of NSAP
2	Shri Rama Varma K., Under Secretary (NSAP)	All work related to administration of NSAP.

3	Shri Vinay Kumar (Section Officer (NSAP))	Overall supervision/coordination of the Section including NSAP-MIS etc. , policy matters of the schemes, Parliament Question/ Assurances
4	Shri R. L. S. Munda Section Officer (NSAP)	Work related to NSAP-MIS, Coordination with other Ministries, departments and divisions of this Ministry. Hindi Quarterly Report. Forwarding of application / representation received from individuals. Maintenance of records, O&M activities.
5.	Shri Durga Prasad Accounts Officer (NSAP)	All matter related to accounts of schemes of NSAP i.e. Release of Funds, Scrutiny of MPRs, examination of Utilization of Certificates, Physical and Fiancial Reports of States/UTs, Audit Mattes.

**Work Assigned among Staff:**

1	Shri Kapil Meena, Assistant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RTI matters</li> <li>2. Forwarding of application/representation received from individuals</li> <li>3. NSAP-MIS</li> <li>4. All the matters pertaining to computerisation</li> <li>5. Meeting of Nodal Officers</li> <li>6. VIP references</li> <li>7. Physical and Financial Reports of States/UTs.</li> <li>8. Monthly D.O. letter to Cabinet Secretary &amp; Monthly Summary to the Cabinet Secretariat</li> </ol>
2	Shri Ashok Kumar Jha, Statistical Investigator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parliament Questions (Lok/Rajya Sabha) relating to NSAP</li> <li>2. Fulfillment of Parliament Assurances</li> <li>3. Preparation of Notes on NSAP in connection with review meetings</li> <li>4. State/UT-wise allocation on the prescribed norms of the scheme</li> <li>5. Cabinet Notes/EFC memo</li> <li>6. RTI matters</li> <li>7. VIP References</li> <li>8. Sr. Officers Meeting</li> <li>9. All misc. matter received from other Departments/Divisions</li> <li>10. Quarterly Hindi Report</li> <li>11. Preparation of Material for PRC/Nodal Officers Meeting</li> </ol>

- III. Please provide list of rules, regulations, instructions, manual and records held by public authority or under its control or used by its employees for discharging functions as per the following format. This format has to be filled up for each type of document.

<b>Name/Title of the document</b>	
Type of document - Choose one of the types given below(Rules, Regulations, Instructions, Manuals, Records, others)	Guidelines of NSAP
Brief write-up of the document	As may be seen in the web site of the Ministry of Rural Development at <a href="http://nsap.gov.in">http://nsap.gov.in</a>
From where one can get a copy of rules, regulations, instructions, manuals and records.	Web site of the Ministry of Rural Development
Fee charged by the department for a copy of rules, regulations, instructions, manuals and records (if any).	Nil

- IV. Whether there is any provision to seek consultation /participation of public or its representatives for formulation of policies? If there is, please provide details of such policy in following format

Not applicable for NSAP

- V. Whether there is any provision to seek consultation /participation of public or its representatives for formulation of policies? If there is, please provide details of such policy in following format

Not applicable for NSAP

- VI. Use the format given below to give the information about the official documents. Also mention the place where the documents are available e.g. at secretariat level, directorate level, others (Please mention the level in place of writing "Others")

Sl. No.	Contents of the document	Name of the document	Procedure to obtain the document	By under
01	Guidelines for implementing the various schemes under NSAP	Guidelines	Can be downloaded from the web site of the Ministry of Rural Development	

- VII. Please provide information on Boards, Councils, Committee and other Bodies related to public authority in the following format

Not applicable for NSAP

**VIII. Please provide contact information about the Public Information Officers, Assistant Public Information Officers and Departmental Appellate Authority of the Public Authority**

<b>Name Designation &amp; Address of CPIO</b>	<b>Phone No. E-Mail Fax No.</b>	<b>Appellate Authority Name, Designation, Address Phone No. E-Mail</b>
Shri Rama Verma K Under Secretary (NSAP) R.No.604, Block 11, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road New Delhi	011-24360554	Shri T. Srinivas Director (NSAP) Block 11, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road New Delhi 011-24360565

**IX. What is the procedure followed to take decision for various matters? (A reference to Secretariat Manual and rule of Business Manual, and other Rules/regulations etc. can be made)**

- Scrutiny of documents by the NSAP Division
- Approval by Hon'ble Minister (RD) /Secretary (RD)/JS (NSAP)/Dir(NSAP)/US(NSAP) – based on the subject matter concerned
- Concurrence by the IFD ( if required)
- Issue of Communication etc. to the concerned

**X. What are the documented procedures/ laid down procedures/ Defied Criteria/ Rules to arrive at a particular decision matters? What are different levels through which a decision process moves?**

As explained above at point (IX)

**XI. What are the arrangements to communicate the decision to public?**

Decisions up loaded on the web site of the Ministry of Rural Development as deemed necessary from case to case.

**XII. Who are the officers at various levels whose opinions are sought for the process of decision making?**

As explained above at point (IX)

**XIII. Who are the officers at various levels whose opinions are sought for the process of decision making? –**

As explained above at point (IX)

**XIV. Who is the final authority that vets the decision?**

Hon'ble Minister (RD)/ Secretary (RD) /JS (NSAP)/Dir (NSAP)/US (NSAP) – based on the subject matter concerned

**XV. Please provide information separately in the following format for the important matters on which decision is taken by the public authority**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>1</b>
Subject on which decision is to be taken	Provisional inter-state allocation of funds and sending recommendation to Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Home Affairs for release of funds for first quarter beginning April
Guidelines/directions if any	Guidelines of NSAP (available on the website of the Ministry)
Process of execution	Scrutiny of MPRs by the NSAP Division  Approval by Jt.Secretary (NSAP)  Concurrence by the IFD  Issue of Communication to the Ministry of Finance/ Ministry of Home Affairs

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>2</b>
Subject on which decision is to be taken	Conducting Nodal Officers Meetings/ Performance Review Committee Meetings
Guidelines/directions if any	Guidelines of NSAP (available on the website of the Ministry)
Process of execution	Approval by Jt.Secretary (NSAP)  Issue of Communication to the States/UTs

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>3</b>
Subject on which decision is to be taken	Formulating policies & guidelines for better implementation of Schemes in States/UTs to include more vulnerable groups of society
Guidelines/directions if any	Guidelines of NSAP (available on the website of the Ministry)
Process of execution	Approval by Jt.Secretary (NSAP)

	Approval by Hon'ble Minister (RD) Issue of Communication to the States/UTS
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Sl. No.	4
Subject on which decision is to be taken	Prompt Grievance Redressal relating to delay in providing the recommendations for release of funds/ Poor monitoring of schemes under NSAP
Guidelines/directions if any	Guidelines of DoPT
Process of execution	Approval by Jt.Secretary (NSAP)/Dir(NSAP) Issue of Communication

**XVI. Directory of officers and employees**

Given under chapter heading "Directory of Officers"

**XVII. Please provide information about the details of budget for different activities under different schemes in the given format :**

Name of the Programme/Scheme	National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
Duration of the programme/scheme	It is an ongoing Programme
Objectives of the programme	To ensure that the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of India enjoining upon the State to undertake within its means a number of welfare measures and to ensure that the spirit of Article 41 of the Constitution of India which directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development, is met.
Physical and financial targets of the programme (for the last year – 2009-10)	The fund for NSAP is released as ACA in a combined manner for all the schemes of NSAP taken together. The targets for 2009-10 is as under: Physical: 216 lakh beneficiaries Financial: ₹ 5200 crore
Eligibility of the beneficiary	Belonging to a BPL family and i. Above 65 years for IGNOAPS ii. Between 40-64 years and status of a widow for

	<p>IGNWPS</p> <p>iii. Between 18-64 years and 80% or above disability for IGNDPS</p> <p>iv. Primary bread winner of a BPL family for NFBS</p> <p>v. Destitute and above 65 years, but left out on account of numerical ceiling for Annapurna.</p>
Pre-requisites for the benefit	Same as above
Procedure to avail the benefits of the programme	Submit an application to the concerned authority accompanied by the mandatory documents.
Criteria for deciding the eligibility	<p>Belonging to a BPL family and above 65 years for IGNOAPS</p> <p>Between 40-64 years and status of a widow for IGNWPS</p> <p>Between 18-64 years and 80% or above disability for IGNDPS</p> <p>Primary bread winner of a BPL family for NFBS</p> <p>Destitute and above 65 years, but left out on account of numerical ceiling for Annapurna.</p>
Details of the benefits given in the programme (also mention the amount of subsidy or other help given)	An additional Central Assistance of ₹ 200/- per month per beneficiary under the three pension schemes, viz. IGNOAPS, IGNWPS IGNDPS and one time payment of ₹ 10,000/- under NFBS and 10 kgs. of food grains, free of cost under Annapurna.
Procedure for the distribution of the subsidy	Not applicable for NSAP as there is no subsidy involved.
Where to apply and whom to contact in the office for applying	Village Offices and the Officer concerned.
Application fee (where applicable)	No fee
Other fees (where applicable)	No Fee
Application format (where applicable. If the application is made on plain paper please mention it along with what the applicant should mention in the application)	No Specific format
List of attachments	Documents to prove the eligibility, viz. proof of age/ proof of belonging to BPL family/proof of disability/proof of being primary bread winner etc.
Format of Attachments	No Specific format
Where to contact in case of process related complaints	Panchayat/Block/District level officers as the case may be
Details of the available fund (At various levels like District level, Block level etc.)	The ACA is released by the Ministry of Finance to the State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs to



	the UTs as a whole for the various programmes under NSAP.
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**XVIII. The Manner of Execution of Subsidy Programmes. Please provide the information as per the following format**

Name of the Programme/Scheme	Not Applicable  The NSAP was transferred to the State Plan w.e.f. 2002-03 and funds are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for all the schemes of NSAP taken together. The responsibility for identification of beneficiaries, sanction of benefits and disbursement of the same vests with the respective State Government/UT Administration. Since this programme does not involve any subsidy, the information on this item may be treated as "NIL".
Duration of the programme/scheme	
Objectives of the programme	
Physical and financial targets of the programme (for the last year )	
Eligibility of the beneficiary	
Pre-requisites for the benefit	
Procedure to avail the benefits of the programme	
Criteria for deciding the eligibility	
Details of the benefits given in the programme (also mention the amount of subsidy or other help given)	
Procedure for the distribution of the subsidy	
Where to apply and whom to contact in the office for applying	
Application fee (where applicable)	
Other fees (where applicable)	
Application format (where applicable. If the application is made on plain paper please mention it along with what the applicant should mention in the application)	
List of attachments	
Format of Attachments	
Where to contact in case of process related complaints	
Details of the available fund (At various levels like District level, Block level etc.)	

**XIX. Particulars of recipients of concessions, permits or authorization granted Please provide the information as per the following format**

Name of the Programme	National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
Type (Concession/Permits/Authorization)	Additional Central Assistance
Objective	To ensure that the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of India enjoining upon the State to undertake within its means a number of welfare measures and to ensure that the spirit of

	Article 41 of the Constitution of India which directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development, is met.
Targets set (for the last year 2009-10)	Physical: 216 lakh beneficiaries Financial: ₹ 5200 crore
Eligibility	As under
Criteria for eligibility	Belonging to a BPL family and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. above 65 years for IGNOAPS</li> <li>ii. Between 40-64 years and status of a widow for IGNWPS</li> <li>iii. Between 18-64 years and 80% or above disability for IGNDPS</li> <li>iv. Primary bread winner of a BPL family for NFBS</li> <li>v. Destitute and above 65 years, but left out on account of numerical ceiling for Annapurna.</li> </ul>
Pre-requisites	Same as above
Procedure to avail benefits	Submit an application to the concerned authority accompanied by the mandatory documents.
Time limit for the concession/permits /authorizations	This is an ongoing programme
Application fee (where applicable)	No fees
Application format (where applicable)	No Specific format
List of attachments (certificates/documents)	Documents to prove the eligibility, viz. proof of age/ proof of belonging to BPL family/proof of disability/proof of being primary bread winner etc.
Format of attachments	No Specific format

**XX. Please provide the details of the Norms/Standards set by the Department for execution of various activities/programmes**

S. N.	Item of Work	Prescribed Norms
01	Provisional inter-state allocation of funds and sending recommendation to Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Home Affairs for release of funds for first quarter beginning April	10 working days
02	Conducting Nodal Officers Meetings/ Performance Review Committee Meetings	Once in 3 months
03	Formulating policies & guidelines for better implementation of Schemes in States/UTs to include more vulnerable groups of society.	Average Turnaround time taken based on the standard process as per the prevalent

		situation
<b>04</b>	Placing the copies of sanction orders etc. in public domain	10 working days from receipt of the document from the Ministry of Finance/ Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>05</b>	Prompt Grievance Redressal relating to delay in providing the recommendations for release of funds/ Poor monitoring of schemes under NSAP	45 working days

**XXI. Please provide the details of the information related to the various schemes which are available in the electronic format**

The details of NSAP is available on the website of the Ministry of Rural Development at <http://nsap.gov.in>

**XXII. Means, methods or facilitation available to the public which are adopted by the department for dissemination of information:** Awareness generation through intensive IEC activities using electronic media, print, press advertisements, workshops, outdoor through DAVP and interpersonal communication through DFP and S&DD have been taken up.

**XXIII. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**

**Question 1** What is meant by NSAP and when was it started?

**Answer** NSAP stands for National Social Assistance Programme. The programme was launched on 15th August, 1995.

**Question 2** What is the justification for existence of NSAP?

**Answer** The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) represents a significant step towards the fulfillment of the Directive Principles in Article 41 and 42 of the Constitution recognizing the concurrent responsibility of the Central and the State Governments in the matter. In particular, Article 41 of the Constitution of India directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development.

**Question 3** What is the objective of NSAP?

**Answer** In providing social assistance benefits to poor households in the case of old age, death of the breadwinner and maternity, the NSAP aims at ensuring minimum national standards, in addition to the benefits that the States are currently providing or might provide in future. It also aims at ensuring that social protection to the beneficiaries everywhere in the country is uniformly available without interruption.

**Question 4:** What is the composition of NSAP? Who implements it?

**Answer** The NSAP at its inception had three components namely National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). The NSAP is implemented in the States/UTs in accordance with the general conditions applicable to all components of the NSAP as well as specific condition applicable to each component.

**Question 5** What amendments have been made in the guidelines for NSAP since its inception?

**Answer** During the year 1998 the amount of benefit under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) was raised from ₹ 5000/- to ₹ 10,000/- in case of death of primary breadwinner, irrespective of the cause of death viz natural or accidental. Similarly, the benefit under National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) was revised to ₹ 500/- from ₹ 300/-. Disbursement of pension in public meetings preferably of Gram Sabha in village and in neighborhood/mohalls committees was also allowed.

During the year 2006, the scale of benefit under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) was raised from ₹ 75 to ₹ 200/- per month per beneficiary w.e.f. 1-4-2006. Very recently the eligibility criteria under NOAPS has been changed and now pension under NOAPS is to be granted to a person who is 65 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Govt. of India. The programme has been now named as “Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)”. This will come into effect from 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2007.

**Question 6** What is the eligibility criteria and amount of financial assistance payable under National Family Benefit Scheme?

**Answer** Central Assistance by way of a lump sum family benefit under NFBS age subject to the following conditions.

- (i) The primary bread winner is to be the member of the household (male and female) whose earnings contribute substantially to the total household income.
- (ii) The death of such a primary breadwinner should have occurred while he or she is more than 18 yrs. of age and less than 65 yrs. of age.
- (iii) The bereaved household qualifies as one below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

The amount of central assistance under the above scheme is ₹ 10000/- in the case of the primary breadwinner.

**Question 7** When was Annapurna started? What is its objectives and the benefit available under it?

**Answer** On 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2000 a new Scheme known as Annapurna Scheme was launched. This scheme aimed at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the NOAPS. Under the Annapurna Scheme 10 kgs of food grains per month are provided free of cost to the beneficiary.

**Question 8:** Has any of the schemes under NSAP been transferred from Ministry of rural Development to other Ministry?

**Answer** Yes. The National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) has been transferred from Ministry of Rural development to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare w.e.f. 1-4-2001.

**Question 9** What is the funding pattern envisaged under NSAP?

**Answer** Under NSAP 100 per cent Central assistance is extended to the States/UTs to provide the benefits in accordance with the norms, guidelines and conditions laid down by the Central Government.

**Question 10** When were NSAP and Annapurna transferred to State Plan? Why? What is the effect of this transfer?

**Answer** In the National Development Council Meeting held in January 1997 to discuss the Draft Approach to the Ninth Plan, several Chief Ministers of States suggested for transfer of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to States. As per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan, it was emphasized that in principle Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be confined to schemes of an inter-state character, matters impinging on national security, selected national priorities where central supervision is essential for effective implementation. As a result of the review of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Mo RD, it was decided to transfer NSAP and Annapurna to the State Plans from the year 2002-2003. Funds for these schemes are released as Additional Central Assistance. The funds are allocated by the Planning Commission and allocated among the States by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Planning Commission and released by the Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of M/o Rural Development

**Question 11** What are the main features of the schemes under NSAP?

**Answer** Some of the important features of the schemes are as follows:

(a) **Selection :**

The Gram Panchayat/Municipalities are expected to play an active role in the identification of the beneficiaries under the three schemes.

(b) **Disbursement :**

Apart from the disbursal of benefits through the accounts of the beneficiaries in Banks or in Post Office Savings Banks or through Postal Money Order the assistance under the Old Age Pension Scheme, may also be disbursed in public meetings such as Gram Sabha meetings in rural areas and by neighbourhood/ mohalla committees in urban areas. Recently it has been decided by the Govt. of India to credit pension where feasible, into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary.

(c) **Monitoring:**

The States/UTs have the flexibility to implement the schemes through any State Govt. Department. They have to however, designate a Nodal Secretary at the State level to

report the progress of implementation by coordinating with different departments concerned with the implementation of the schemes. The progress of implementation of the schemes is to be reported through quarterly reports in a given monitoring format by the 15<sup>th</sup> of month of the following quarter. Non reporting of the physical and financial progress reports is construed as lack of progress and therefore, may result in the non-release of additional central assistance for the last quarter of the financial year. Since the ACA allocations for the schemes lapse at the end of the financial year, the instalments cannot be released during the next financial year, even if a State Govt. reports progress subsequent to the cut-off dates fixed as above.

**Question 12** What is the monitoring mechanism at State and District Level?

**Answer** State Level and District Level committees have been constituted for the purpose of the monitoring and evaluation of the schemes. The State Level Committee is headed by the Chief Secretary and district Level Committee is headed by the Collector. The States can review, if necessary, the functioning of the existing Committees at the State and District levels to ensure better results and coordination. The nomination of the representative of the MoRD and the Planning Commission in the State level committees can also be considered by States/UTs.

**Question 13** Whether any study has been conducted on NSAP? If so, what are its findings?

**Answer** The ORG Evaluation Study on NSAP summarized that the programme has reached the target segment and has been well accepted by the people. However, the programme should lay emphasis on improving awareness level through publicity and to ensure timely distribution of benefit.

**Question 14** How will the new beneficiaries be identified under the modified NOAPS?

**Answer** As per the revised eligibility criteria new beneficiaries will be identified from BPL list prepared by the States/UTs as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) for the conduct of BPL Census 2002.

**Question 15** How will the identification of the beneficiaries be done in the urban areas?

**Answer** Identification of eligible beneficiaries will be carried out as per the BPL list required to be prepared in connection with poverty alleviation programme off the ministry of Urban Housing and Poverty Alleviation.

**Question 16** What will be the position in respect of existing beneficiaries, whose name are not on the BPL list?

**Answer** They will continue to get the pension as at present without any interruption notwithstanding the fact that their names are not borne on the BPL list, provided they were eligible as per the old criteria.

**Question 17** How many beneficiaries are expected to be covered under the modified guidelines?

**Answer** Number of beneficiaries will depend upon the actual identification by the State Government as per the revised eligibility criteria prescribed by the Central Government. However an estimate has been made based on 2004-05 poverty estimates.

**Question 18** What will happen in case of Annapurna beneficiaries? Whether there are to be covered under IGNOAPS or they will get the benefit under Annapurna?

**Answer** In view of the Supreme Court order stating “that no scheme including Annapurna shall be discontinued or restricted in any way without prior approval of the Court, all the beneficiaries of Annapurna will for the present remain excluded from the preview of IGNOAPS and they will continue to get the benefit under Annapurna till the orders of the Court are modified.

**Question 19** How will the fund be allocated for NFBS?

**Answer** The funds for NFBS will continue to be released along with the IGNOAPS and Annapurna but will be allocated separately. The allocation for NFBS for current year will be made as per the coverage reported by the states. However an estimate has been made based on SRS 2003 & 2004-05 poverty estimates.

**XXIV.** Related to seeking information :

**XXV.** With relation to training imparted to public by Public Authority:

**No training is presently being imparted by the NSAP Division.**