

Questionnaire on National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

Q. No. 1. What is NSAP?

Ans. NSAP stands for National Social Assistance Programme. This came into effect from 15th August, 1995. NSAP at present comprises of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme(IGNOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme(NFBS) and Annapurna Scheme.

Q. No. 2. What is the eligibility for getting old age pension?

Ans. The eligibility criteria under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme is:-

- Age of the applicant (male or female) should be 65 years or above.
- The applicant should be belonging to a household living below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Govt. of India

Q. No. 3. How is IGNOAPS different from the earlier National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)?

Ans. Under NOAPS, old age pension were granted to a person who is 65 years old or higher and who is destitute in the sense of having little or no means of regular income. Pension under IGNOAPS is now granted to a person who is 65 years or above and belongs to a household below the poverty line instead of only to destitutes.

Q.No.4. When did the IGNOAPS come into effect?

Ans. The National Old Age Pension Scheme has also been renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOPS) and formally launched on 19th November, 2007.

Q. No. 5. What is the pension amount under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme?

Ans. The central contribution of pension under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary and the State Governments may contribute over and above to this amount. At present old

age beneficiaries are getting anywhere between Rs. 200/- to Rs. 1000/- depending on the State Contribution.

Q. No. 6 What are the pension schemes of the State Government?

Ans. Several States are having their own widow, disabled and old age pension schemes with varying eligibility criteria. These schemes are funded from their own resources.

Q. No.7. Who do I contact for getting pension under the scheme?

Ans. The social security schemes are generally implemented by the Social Welfare Departments in the States. However, in some States, Rural Development Department or Women Child Development Department are administering these schemes. The concerned department in the State may be approached for getting pension.

Q. No. 8. How will the pension be disbursed to me?

Ans. As per the Govt. of India decision, pension has to be credit in bank account/ post office account of the beneficiary wherever feasible. States are at present disbursing pension either through bank account/ post office saving account or in cash in Gram Sabha or through Money Order.

Q. No. 9. Are women also eligible for the pension?

Ans. Women are also eligible for the pension provided they also meet the eligibility criteria laid-down under the IGNOAPS?

Q. No. 10. Whether pension is restricted to only one person in a family?

Ans. No. All the persons who are 65 years of age in a BPL family are eligible to get old age pension.

Q. No. 11. What is the National Family Benefit Scheme?

Ans. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) is a component of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Under National Family Benefit Scheme, Central Assistance is given in the form of lumpsum family benefit for households below the poverty line on the death of the primary breadwinner in the bereaved family.

Q. No. 12. What is the eligibility under NFBS ?

Ans. The assistance is available on the following conditions:-

- The primary breadwinner shall be a member whose earnings contribute substantially to the household income.
- The death of such primary breadwinner occurs while he or she is more than 18 years and less than 65 years of age.
- The bereaved family qualifies as one below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Govt. of India

Q. No. 12. What is the amount given under NFBS?

Ans.. The amount of benefit is Rs.10000/- in case of death of primary breadwinner due to natural or accidental causes. The family benefit is paid to such surviving member of the household of the deceased who, after local enquiry is determined to be the head of the household.

Q.No.13. What is Annapurna Scheme?

Ans. Annapurna Scheme was introduced w.e.f.1.4.2000. 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.

Q.No.14. How could a person become eligible for pension under IGNOAPS, if his name could not found in the BPL List 2002?

Ans. Such a person is not eligible for pension. However, he may appeal to appropriate authority for inclusion of his name in the BPL List 2002 after that he may apply for pension.

Q. No. 15. What are the circumstances under which pension under IGNOAPS can be stopped?

Ans. Pension can be stopped in case of death of the beneficiaries or he does not withdraw amount for a reasonable time.

Q. No. 16. On which date the pension is credited in the account/ disbursed ?

Ans. As far as possible pension has to be disbursed monthly. However, some of the States are disbursing pension quarterly or half yearly.

Q. No.17. Whether nomination facility is available in case of death of pensioner?

Ans. In case of death of pensioner, the pension will have to be stopped and no nominee will receive it.

Q. No.18 Whether joint account in the bank/ post office can be opened for disbursal of pension?

Ans. Joint account with any member of the family is not permissible.

Q.No. 19. Whether identification/sanction of pension is a continuous process ?

Ans. Yes. Identification of eligible beneficiaries is a continuous process.

Q.No. 20. Is there any cut off dates for determination of age and receive the application ?

Ans. There is no cut off date. As and when person becomes 65 years old and belonging to a BPL household as per BPL 2002 list he may approach the appropriate authority for grant of pension.

Q. No. 21. Who do I turn to if I have any complaint on any of the schemes of the National Social Assistance Programme?

Ans. The Nodal Secretary dealing with NSAP in the State or the concerned District/block level Welfare Officer can be approached for redressal of any complaint regarding the schemes under NSAP.