

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4379**  
ANSWERED ON 28/03/2023

**NATIONAL FAMILY BENEFIT SCHEME**

4379. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has details when was the last time that financial assistance to widows through the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) was disbursed to the State of Kerala and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has ensured that it has been properly distributed at the State level;
- (c) if not, whether any policy measures have been taken by the Government so far and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any dues are still pending, if so, whether the Government has the figures available for the dues to be received by the eligibles; and
- (e) whether there are any dues pending in NFBS to the Kerala Government and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) Yes, Sir. In FY 2020-21, financial assistance amounting to Rs.177.69 lakh was released to the State of Kerala under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) the last time.

(b)&(c) The assistance under the scheme is sanctioned up to the State/ UT-wise cap of beneficiaries. The identification of beneficiaries and sanction & disbursement of benefits to them is done by the respective State/UT. As per information received from the State of Kerala, the financial assistance received during FY 2020-21 has been distributed to the beneficiaries.

(d)&(e) NFBS is a demand-driven scheme. A one-time lump sum central assistance of Rs.20,000 is provided to the eligible bereaved family on death of primary breadwinner of the family. Under the scheme, funds are released to States/UTs on the basis of (i) expenditure reported by the State /UT based on assistance paid by them to beneficiaries subject to State Cap; (ii) submission of proposal, complete in all respect, as per NSAP Guidelines; and (iii) compliance of revised procedure for release of funds and submission of requisite undertakings signed by the competent authority as per instructions of Ministry of Finance, issued from time to time.

In the case of Kerala state, the State Cap under NFBS is pegged at 4,358 households. Accordingly, Central Government made following fund allocations for the State under NFBS for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 (as per the State Cap):

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Fund allocated (Rs. in lakh)</b>
2020-21	897.75
2021-22	897.75
2022-23	897.75

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic crisis during 2020-21, the first trench of Rs.177.69 lakh was released to Kerala under NFBS without submission of any document by the State. The remaining funds are pending for release to the State due to non-compliance of the abovementioned requirements by the State.

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