

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1803
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2026**

EFFECTIVENESS OF NSAP

1803. Smt. PoonambenHematbhaiMaadam:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the various components implemented under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP);**
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the effectiveness of NSAP in achieving its objective of providing social assistance to the poor, particularly elderly persons, widows and persons with disabilities;**
- (c) if so, the broad outcomes thereof;**
- (d) whether any technology-based interventions have been integrated into the implementation and monitoring of NSAP to improve transparency and delivery of benefits; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)**

(a): National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a 100% funded centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) covering persons belonging to families living below poverty line (BPL). It comprises the following five schemes:

- i. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme - Assistance of ₹ 200/- per month to persons in the age group of 60-79 years and ₹ 500/- per month to persons of 80 years and above.**
- ii. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme - Assistance of ₹300/- per month to widows in the age-group of 40-79 years and ₹ 500/- per month to widows of 80 years and above.**
- iii. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme - Assistance of ₹300/- per month to divyangjans aged 18-79 years with severe or multiple disabilities and ₹ 500/- per month to divyangjans of 80 years and above.**

- iv. National Family Benefit Scheme - A one-time assistance of ₹ 20,000/- to the bereaved household on the death of primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 59 years.**
- v. Annapurna Scheme - 10 kg of food grains per month free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible, are not receiving old age pension.**

(b) & (c): From time to time, various impact assessment and evaluation studies have been carried out to assess the impact of NSAP schemes by the Ministry and NITI Aayog. Additionally, National Level Monitoring (NLM) is an initiative of the Ministry designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement across rural development programmes. By engaging independent third-party monitors, the system provides unbiased insights into how schemes are being implemented on the ground level.

The assessments indicate satisfactory implementation at the grass root level, with most beneficiaries expressing overall satisfaction with the processes of selection, sanction, and disbursement of pensions. The studies also find that pensions are primarily used to meet essential needs such as food and healthcare. At the same time, they have recommended further strengthening of the programme through measures such as improving adequacy of assistance, ensuring timely and regular payments, enhancing beneficiary verification and monitoring systems etc.

(d) & (e): The Ministry has integrated several technology-based interventions in the implementation and monitoring of the NSAP to improve transparency and delivery of benefits. A web-based pension payment portal, NSAP-PPS (National Social Assistance Programme-Pension Payment System) has been operationalized as an end-to-end digital tool for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode disbursal of pension through PFMS. The platform is used for managing and monitoring pension benefits provided to eligible beneficiaries. The portal facilitates maintenance of beneficiary records, processing of pension sanctions, tracking of fund disbursement to ensure transparency and efficiency in pension delivery. Additionally, a Digital Life Certification (DLC) mobile application has been developed for Aadhaar-based biometric verification of beneficiaries.
