

## **DISTRICT PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DP&RD)**

District Panchayat & Rural Development Section of the Nadia District is entrusted with the responsibility of execution and implementation of the policies related to functioning of the rural local self-government, i.e., the Panchayats, providing administrative support to the three tier panchayat system as well as implementation of various rural development programmes including the social security schemes in the rural areas of the District. This Section also organizes community action for participatory planning and development through the elected Panchayat bodies at different levels. As per 2001 census, the population of the District in rural part is 36, 25,308. The District has 17 blocks, which are further divided in to 187 Gram Panchayats. Administration of the Gram Panchayat Offices is also one of the responsibilities of this section.

### **Thrust Areas**

The Panchayat & Rural Development section aims at facilitating economic and social development in the rural areas of the District and organize community action in all development initiatives in the rural sector by utilising Central/State Sector programmes. The thrust areas of the Department include the following:

1. Deepening and widening decentralization through the Panchayat bodies
2. Training and capacity building of the Panchayat bodies for better governance
3. Sustainable development of natural resources
4. Providing social security and safety nets to the disadvantaged and socially excluded
5. Improving the social and physical infrastructure in the rural areas monitoring such development programmes or schemes' at the Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat level under advice from the State Government i.e. from the Panchayats and Rural Development Department, the Director of Panchayat and Rural Development and the District Magistrate.
6. Conduction or making arrangement for conducting training programmes for the Panchayat functionaries and officers and staff having functional linkage with the Panchayats as may be entrusted by the State Government in the Panchayats and Rural Development Department, Directorate of Panchayats & Rural Development and the District Magistrates

## **Social Security Schemes**

### **Brief Introduction**

The prime objectives of Panchayati Raj Institutions as defined in the Article 40 of the Constitution of India are to promote economic development and social justice. These are intended to secure for the citizens adequate means of livelihood, raise the standard of living, improve public health, provide free and compulsory education for children etc. 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. It is in accordance with these noble principles that the Government of India on 15th August 1995 included the National Social Assistance Programme in the Central Budget for 1995-96. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) then comprised of National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). These programmes were meant for providing social assistance benefit to the aged, the BPL households in the case of death of the primary breadwinner and for maternity. Subsequently, the National Maternity Benefit Scheme was renamed as Janani Surakshya Yojana and the implementation of the scheme was transferred to the Health and Family Welfare department with effect from 1st April, 2001.

### **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)**

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the selected beneficiaries as per the following criteria :

- Age of the applicant (male or female) is 65 years of more,
- The applicant is a destitute in the sense of having little or no regular means of subsistence from his / her own sources of income or through financial support from the family members or other sources.

The amount of Old Age Pension was increased four fold i.e. from Rs. 100/- per month to Rs. 400/- per month during the financial year, which is shared equally by the Central & State Governments. Previously the Central Government contributed Rs 75/ per person and the balance Rs 25/ was contributed by the State Government. In order to improve delivery of services the Gram Panchayats were conferred sanctioning authority, previously vested in the S.D.O. It may also be mentioned that the disbursing authority has been changed from Gram Panchayat to Panchayat Samiti.

Year-wise number of beneficiaries and amount disbursed during the year is shown at Table below.

### Performance under National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):

Year	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure (in lakhs)
2008-2009	58,693	1,70.21
2009-2010	84,889	46,31.95

From November, 2007, the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) has been renamed as Indra Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). The benefit of pension has been extended to all individuals who have attained the age of 65 years as on November, 2007 and are enlisted in the list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. The list of additional beneficiaries covered under IGNOAPS is available in web site [www.wbprd.nic.in](http://www.wbprd.nic.in).

### National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

This scheme provides a one time financial assistance to the families living below the poverty line, which have lost their primary bread-winner, while aged between 18 & 65 years. A statement of performance under the scheme during the last five years is given at Table below :

### Performance under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

Sl. No.	Year	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure (in lakhs)
01	2008-2009	1376	1,41.68
02	2009-2010	2695	2,70.01

In the earlier years benefit of the schemes did not reach all the eligible families. With closer monitoring and taking up special drives in increasing awareness about the scheme the coverage has improved in the last two years. In order to reduce the time taken for sanctioning and disbursement of the due amount the responsibility of sanctioning the cases was devolved on the Panchayat Samitis, which was earlier entrusted with the SDOs.

### Provident Fund For Landless Agricultural Labourers (PROFLAL):

The Scheme was introduced from 1st April 1998. All landless agricultural labourers within the age group of 18 to 50 years who are recorded holders of up to 50 (fifty) decimal of land including homestead land and major source of earnings are derived from their work as agricultural labourers are eligible for the scheme. The eligible subscribers to the scheme have to deposit at the rate of Rs. 10/- (ten) per month and the State Government contributes equal amount till such time the subscribers attain the age of 50 years. On attaining the age of 50 years, the accumulated amount along with usual interest is paid to the subscribers. If for some reason the subscriber does not find it possible to continue with the scheme, the amount saved by him along with the matching contribution of the State Government against the amount saved are refunded to the subscriber concerned. The scheme is administered by the Gram Panchayats at the village level. The Block Development Officer and the District Magistrate concerned have supervisory role in implementing the scheme.

As on 31.03.2007 a total of 9,13,901 subscribers have deposited Rs.20.52 crores on which interest accrued to date is Rs.4.29 crores

### Statement of progress of PROFLAL

Sl. No.	Year	No. of PROFLALs Registered	Subscriptions Collected (Rs.)	No. of LAL Discontinued	No. of LAL Submitted Claims	No. of Claims Settled
01	2008-2009	23,826	6,59,586.00	1,739	577	577
02	2009-2010	22,087	14,79,722.00	3,808	282	209

## National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

### A. INDIRA GANDHI National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

- Beneficiaries both male and female, of 65 years of age and above and their families lying below the poverty line, are getting Old Age pension @ Rs 400 /- per month (with 75% Central Assistance and 25% State share) under the scheme. To give financial assistance @ Rs. 400/ (Four hundred) per month to all the identified. The coverage will be universal and there shall not be any quota at any level.
- Eligibility criteria and requirement of documents: To get the benefit of the scheme, following criteria need to be fulfilled by an applicant :
  1. He/She must not be less than 65 years of age.
  2. He/She should have to be from a family which is below the poverty line.
  3. He/She shall get the pension till death.
  4. In case of any dispute related to determination of age, birth certificate/ certificate of the Headmaster of the Primary / Madhyamik School in which she studied last/horoscope will be accepted. If the applicant did not study in school, certificate of the Pradhan / concerned member of the Gram Pancha at will be accepted.
  5. Monthly pension will be disbursed through the Bank Accounts / Post Office Accounts of the pensioners.
  6. Every year on 1st January new beneficiary will be selected through RHS software by the BDOs. Names of the selected beneficiaries is available in the Website [www.wbprd.nic.in](http://www.wbprd.nic.in) of the Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, Government of West Bengal.

### B. National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

Below Poverty Line ( B.P.L.) families. in the case of natural or accidental death of the primary bread winner belonging to the age group of 18 years to 65 years will be entitled to receive a sum of Rs. 10000/- at a time within 4 weeks of the death of the bread winner. During the year 2001-2002 total a sum of Rs.696.97 lakh was spent benefiting 6873 beneficiaries including ST-717, SC-1429, Others- 2731, Women1445 and Physically Handicapped -57. During this current financial year 2002-2003 ( upto Feb,2003) a fund of Rs. 590.50 lakh has been allotted to different districts.

### C. IGWPS & IGDPS

Government of India has recently introduced two schemes i.e. Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGDPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). Those two schemes have to be introduced in the State with the contribution of 50% of the fund required for implementation of those two schemes. The objectives of the schemes & eligibility criteria & other details are given below.

#### Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGWPS)

##### Objective

To give financial assistance @ Rs. 400/- (Four hundred) per month to all the identified pensioners who are widows of the age group of 40 years & 64 years, and from families which are below the poverty line. The coverage will be universal and there shall not be any quota at any level.

## Eligibility criteria and requirement of documents

To get the benefit of the scheme, following criteria need to be fulfilled by an applicant :-

1. She must not be less than 40 years of age and not above 64 years.
2. She should have to be from a family which is below the poverty line.
3. She shall get the pension till she attains the age of 65 years or till her re-marriage.  
Note : Pradhan of the Gram Panchayat shall review the list of the widows regularly and report any case of remarriage to the Executive officer, Panchayat Samiti. On receipt of the information of re-marriage of any widow who was a beneficiary under IGWPS, the Executive Officer shall cause an enquiry and give the beneficiaries a chance of hearing before rejection/ restoration of the pension.
4. She shall have to produce death registration certificate of her husband in support of her claim.
5. In case of any dispute related to determination of age, birth certificate/ certificate of the Headmaster of the Primary / Madhyamik School in which she studied last/horoscope will be accepted. If the applicant did not study in school, certificate of the Pradhan / concerned member of the Gram Panchayat will be accepted.
6. The applicant has to produce photocopy of her Bank/Post Office A/c. at the time of submission of her application.
7. Monthly pension will be disbursed through the Bank Accounts / Post Office Accounts of the pensioners.
8. No pension will be disbursed until the names of the newly identified pensioners are uploaded to the Web-site [www.wbprd.nic.in](http://www.wbprd.nic.in) of the Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, Government of West Bengal.

## Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)

### Objective

To give financial assistance @ Rs. 400/- (Four hundred ) per month to all the identified beneficiaries who are of the age group of 18 years & 64 years , with severe disability ( i.e. more than 80% disability) or multiple disabilities ( having more than one disability and at least 40% incapacitation in each type of disability, totaling disabilities 80% or more) and from families which are below the poverty line. Both male and female will be eligible to get the benefit of the scheme. The coverage will be universal and there shall not be any quota at any level.

## Eligibility criteria and requirement of documents

To get the benefit of the scheme, following criteria need to be fulfilled by an applicant :-

1. She/He must not be less than 18 years of age and not above 64 years.
2. She/He should be from a family which is below the poverty line.
3. She/He shall be with severe disability (i.e. more than 80% disability) or multiple disabilities (having more than one disability and at least 40% incapacitation in each kind of disability, totaling disabilities 80% or more).
4. She/He shall get the pension until she/he attains the age of 65 years.
5. In case of any dispute related to determination of age, birth certificate /certificate of the Headmaster of the Primary / Madhyamik School in which she/he studied last / horoscope will be accepted. If the applicant did not study in a school, certificate of the Pradhan / concerned member of the Gram Panchayat will be accepted.
6. She/He shall have to produce certificate issued by Social Welfare Department of the District regarding her/his disability in support of her/his claim.
7. Monthly pension will be disbursed through the Bank Accounts / Post Office Accounts of the pensioners.
8. The applicant has to produce photocopy of her Bank/Post Office A/c. at the time of submission of her application.= No pension will be disbursed until the names of the newly identified pensioners are uploaded to the Web-site of [www.wbprd.nic.in](http://www.wbprd.nic.in) of the Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, Government of West Bengal.

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