

r>**Title:** Made a statement on National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).

11.03 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is being implemented since 15th August, 1995. It has three components at present. Under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), the Central assistance is given @ Rs. 75/- per month to destitutes who are aged 65 years or more. Under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), lumpsum benefit is given to households below poverty line on the death of the primary breadwinner. An amount of Rs.5,000/is given in case of natural death and Rs.10,000/- in case of accidental death. Under National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS), pregnant women belonging to households below poverty line are given assistance of Rs.300/- up to two live births.

On the 7th July, 1998, the Government has decided to amend the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) Guidelines to make the programme more effective. The benefit under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) has been raised to Rs.10,000/- from Rs.5,000/- in case of natural death of primary breadwinner. Taking note of the fact that poor households have more than one breadwinner in order to survive, under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), primary breadwinner (man or women) shall henceforth be defined as member whose earnings had contributed substantially to the household income. The term "household" shall also include minor brothers/sisters in case of death of an unmarried adult. The benefit under National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) has been raised to Rs.500/- from Rs.300/-. While timely disbursement of benefit under National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS), before the child is born will be ensured, this benefit will not be denied if there is delay in applying and the benefit can be paid even after delivery of the child. The assistance under three schemes will now be sanctioned and disbursed in the meetings of Gram Sabha by Gram Panchayats/Block level functionaries. In case of Urban areas, elected local self-government officials are to be involved in the process of sanctioning and disbursement of assistance. The disbursement will be made in public meetings of mohalla/neighbourhood committees.
