

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 30th September, 2009

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Guidelines for central assistance under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) as part of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).

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I Name of the Scheme

The scheme is known as '**Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)**'. It will come into existence from February, 2009.

II Eligibility Criteria of Beneficiary

For purpose of claiming central assistance, the following criteria shall apply :

- i) The age of the widow shall be between 40-64 years.
- ii) The applicant must belong to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

III Amount of pension

The central assistance under IGNWPS will be provided at the rate of Rs.200 per month per beneficiary. The State Governments are urged to contribute at least equally towards the pension amount.

IV Specific condition regarding sanction of pension

Sanction of pension to a beneficiary has to be made only after placing the database of beneficiary in the public domain/ website of the Ministry or State.

V Mode of Payment

The pension is to be credited into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary.

VI Identification of beneficiary

The Gram Panchayat/ Municipalities are expected to play an active role in identification of beneficiaries under the scheme.

VII Certificate of coverage

The States / UTs are required to furnish a certificate that all eligible widows have been covered under IGNWPS.

VIII Number of eligible beneficiaries under IGNWPS

The number of eligible beneficiaries to be assisted under *IGNWPS* will be determined as per the field report of all the beneficiaries who satisfy the eligibility criteria.

IX Allocation of Funds

The funds for operation of the schemes relating to IGNOAPS, IGNDPS, IGNWPS and National Family Benefit Scheme as part of National Social Assistance Programme and Annapurna will continue to be released in a combined manner.

X Discontinuation of pension

Pension will be discontinued in the following case:-

- (i) In case of remarriage
- (ii) Once the widows move above the poverty line


(Nilam Sawhney)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

**Secretary
(in charge of NSAP)
All States/Union Territories**