

CHAPTER 6

SOCIAL SECURITY NET

6.1 PENSION SCHEMES

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the following Pension schemes, through Revenue Department, to provide social security to the old aged / destitute persons in the State who neither have any means of subsistence nor any relative to support them.

- i) Old Age Pension (Normal) Scheme
- ii) Destitute Physically Handicapped Pension Scheme
- iii) Destitute Widows Pension Scheme
- iv) Destitute Agricultural Labourers Pension Scheme
- v) Destitute/Deserted wives Pension Scheme

A monthly pension of Rs.400/- per month is disbursed through Money Order to the beneficiaries of the above pension schemes by the Special Tahsildars (Social Security Scheme) of the Revenue Department.

i) OLD AGE PENSION (NORMAL) SCHEME

(since 1.4.1962)

Under this scheme, pension was granted to all old aged persons who neither have any means of subsistence nor any relative to support them and are 65 years and above (60 years in case of destitutes who are incapacitated to earn their livelihood due to blindness, leprosy, insanity, paralysis or loss of limb). To become eligible for the grant of Old Age Pension under this scheme, a person

- a) should not have any source of income or means of subsistence to support,
- b) should not be a professional beggar,
- c) should not be supported by son or sons aged 20 years or above and
- d) should not own property valued above Rs.5,000/-.

The Government of India contributed Rs. 200/- out of the total of Rs.400/- per month paid to the Old Age Pensioners covered under this scheme, which was part of the National Social Assistance Programme. The balance amount of Rs.200/- was borne by the State Government.

As on 29.02.2008, 6,25,819 old aged persons were benefited under this scheme. This scheme has been renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) with revised norms since 19.11.2007.

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME (IGNOAPS)

The National Old Age Pension scheme has been renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme and launched in Tamil Nadu on 19.11.2007, the birthday of former Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. As per the new scheme, the criteria of destitute has been relaxed and pension will be granted to persons who are 65 years of age or above belonging to households Below Poverty Line. The Central Assistance sanctioned for this scheme per beneficiary per month is Rs.200/-. The Government of Tamil Nadu contribute matching share of Rs.200/- per month per beneficiary as was done earlier in the case of National Old Age Pension Scheme. The beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme will get Rs.400/- per month on par with the other beneficiaries of the State Sponsored Pension Schemes.

A sum of Rs.455.15 Crores has been provided for this scheme in the Budget Estimate for the year 2008-2009.

**ii) DESTITUTE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PENSION SCHEME
(since 1.11.1974)**

Physically handicapped destitute persons aged 45 years and above whose permanent disability is 50 percent or more are eligible for this pension. District Level Committees, constituted by the Government in all the districts functioning under the Chairmanship of the District Collectors in which the District Medical Officers and District Social Welfare Officers are members, examine applications received from physically handicapped persons and sanction pension to them considering the individual hardship without reference to age limits prescribed by the scheme. Other conditions applicable to Old Age Pension (Normal) scheme are applicable to this scheme also. Patients suffering from Leprosy are also covered by this scheme. An amount of Rs.400/- is paid as pension under this scheme. Entire expenditure under this scheme is borne by the State Government.

As on 29.02.2008, 83,732 destitute physically handicapped persons are benefitted under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.38.00 Crores has been provided for this scheme in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009.

**iii) DESTITUTE WIDOWS PENSION SCHEME.
(since 1.6.1975)**

Destitute widows of any age who have not remarried are benefitted under this scheme even if they have legal heirs aged 18 years and above. Other conditions applicable to Old Age Pension (Normal) scheme are applicable to this scheme also. An amount of Rs.400/- is paid as pension under this scheme. Entire expenditure under this scheme is borne by the State Government.

As on 29.02.2008, the number of beneficiaries under this scheme is 5,49,513.

A sum of Rs.250.00 Crores has been provided for this scheme in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009.

**iv) DESTITUTE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS PENSION SCHEME.
(since 15.3.1981)**

This scheme covers Destitute Agricultural Labourers aged 60 years and above. Conditions applicable to Old Age Pension (Normal) scheme are applicable to this scheme also. An amount of Rs.400/- per month is paid as pension under this scheme. Entire expenditure under this scheme is borne by the State Government.

As on 29.02.2008, 96,115 Destitute Agricultural Labourers are benefitted under this scheme.

A sum of Rs.49.40 Crores has been provided for this scheme in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009.

v) DESTITUTE / DESERTED WIVES PENSION SCHEME

(since 25.4.1986)

The scheme of Old Age Pension has been extended to benefit deserted wives / destitute women who are not less than 30 years of age and who are deserted by their husbands for a period of not less than five years / obtained legal separation certificate from competent court of law. Deserted wives having legal heirs who have completed 18 years of age are also eligible for pension under this scheme. Other conditions applicable to Old Age Pension (Normal) scheme apply to this scheme also. An amount of Rs.400/- is paid as pension under this scheme. Entire expenditure under this scheme is borne by the State Government.

As on 29.02.2008, the number of beneficiaries under this scheme is 91625.

A sum of Rs.44.00 Crores has been provided for this scheme in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009.

OTHER BENEFITS

1) FREE SUPPLY OF DHOTIS / SAREES

One Saree per female pensioner and one Dhoti per male pensioner are distributed twice a year during Pongal and Deepavali Festivals.

2) SUPPLY OF FREE NUTRITIOUS MEAL AND FREE RICE (since 15.9.1991)

The Government have permitted beneficiaries of the above Pension Schemes to draw rice, free of cost at the following scales.

- i) 4 Kgs. of fine variety rice per head per month for those who do not take meals at the Nutritious Meal Programme Centres.
- ii) 2 Kgs. of fine variety rice per head per month for those who take meals at the Nutritious Meal Programme Centres.

6.2 NATIONAL FAMILY BENEFIT SCHEME

(since 2.10.1995)

This scheme is also covered by the National Social Assistance Programme and is supported with Additional Central Assistance by the Government of India. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.10,000/- is sanctioned as grant by the Government of India, to the households below poverty line, on the death of the primary bread winner. In Tamil Nadu, the beneficiaries of the National Family Benefit Scheme are covered by Distress Relief Scheme and Accident Relief Scheme. Under Accident Relief Scheme, a sum of Rs.15,000/- is granted as relief out of which the Central Government's share is Rs.10,000/- and the State Government's share is Rs.5,000/- and in the case of Distress Relief Scheme, Central assistance of Rs.10,000/- is given to the beneficiary.

A sum of Rs.37.29 Crores has been provided for this scheme in the Budget Estimate 2008-2009.