

## **6.5 NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)**

**6.5.1** The NSAP was launched with effect from 15th August, 1995 as a 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the aim to provide social assistance benefit to poor households in the case of old age, death of primary breadwinner and maternity. This represents a significant step towards the fulfillment of the Directive Principles in Articles 41 & 42 of the Constitution. The programme supplements the efforts of the State Governments with the objective of ensuring minimum national levels of well being and the Central assistance is an addition to the benefit that the States are already providing on Social Protection Schemes or may provide in future. The provision of Central assistance seeks to ensure that social protection to beneficiaries is uniformly available.

**6.5.2** The main features of the three components of the NSAP namely; (i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and (iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) are given below:

### **6.6 National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)**

Old age pension of Rs.75 per month, per beneficiary is provided to person of 65 years and above who is a destitute in the sense of having little or no regular means of subsistence from his/her own sources of income or through support from family members or other sources. In order to determine destitution, the criteria, if any, currently in force in the States/UTs may also be followed.

### **6.7 National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)**

A sum of Rs.10, 000 is provided in the case death of primary breadwinner due to natural or accidental causes. The family benefit is paid to such surviving member of the household of deceased who, after local enquiry, is determined to be the Head of the household. The primary breadwinner is defined as a member, whose earnings contribute substantially to the household income and who is more than 18 years and less than 65 years of age. The bereaved household should qualify as a BPL according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.