

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ON

NALSA(Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme, 2015

Q.1. What are the main objectives of this Scheme?

Ans: The main Objectives of the scheme are as follows:

- a) To ensure access to basic rights and benefits afforded to socially or economically weaker sections of society.
- b) To strengthen legal aid and support services at the National, State, District and Taluk levels for persons who are socially or economically weaker sections in accessing poverty alleviation schemes
- c) To spread awareness about the poverty alleviation schemes through the members of District Authority, Taluk Legal Services Committee, Panel Lawyers, social workers, Para Legal Volunteers and students in Legal Aid Clinics.

Q.2 What is meant by Poverty Alleviation Scheme ?

Ans: "Poverty Alleviation Schemes" refer to any scheme / programme launched either by the Central Government or the State Government that is aimed at addressing any dimension of poverty. They also include social security measures.

Q.3 Who are the Poverty Alleviation Scheme's beneficiaries?

Ans: Scheme beneficiaries are

- a) Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes
- b) All persons eligible for applying under the Poverty Alleviation Schemes
- c) Other persons for whom special economic, social or political measures are taken including but not limited to children, women and transgenders.

Q.4. What are the main causes of Poverty in India ?

Ans: Rural Poverty is a multi dimensional social problem, its causes are varied and they are

- i). Climatic Factors,
- ii). Demographic Factors,
 - a). Rapid growth of Population,
 - b). Size of family,
- iii). Personal Causes
 - a) Lack of Motivation,
 - b) Idleness,

5. What are the Economic Causes of Poverty in India?

- Ans:**
- i). Low Agricultural Productivity
 - ii). Unequal Distribution of Land and other Assets,
 - iii) Decline of Village Industries
 - iv). In-mobility of Labour,
 - v). Lack of Employment Opportunities

6. What are the Social Causes of Poverty in India ?

Ans:i). Lack of Education,
ii). Caste System,
iii). Joint Family System,
iv), Social Customs,
v). Growing Indebtedness

Q.7 Who shall identify the Poverty Alleviation Schemes ?

Ans: Every State Authority shall identify the existing and active Poverty Alleviation Schemes applicable in the State and circulate the list of the same every twelve months to all the District Legal Services Authorities in the State to enable the District Authority to send copy of the same to all Taluk Legal Services Committees, all Village Panchayats in the district and also to the persons working in Legal Services Clinics, Para Legal Volunteers and members of Panchayat. A copy shall also be sent to the Central Authority.

Q.8. What shall be included in the list of Poverty Alleviation Schemes which is to be circulated to all DLSAs ?

Ans: The list shall include the following:

- a) Poverty Alleviation Schemes applicable in that State along with the names of the specific districts in which they are applicable in that year;
- b) The intended beneficiaries under each of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes;
- c) The name of the designated authority or the designated officer to be approached to access each of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes, as identified under each of them;

- d) The list of documents required to access each of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes, as identified under each of them;
- e) The benefits under each of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes, as provided for in each of them;
- f) The amount of funds allocated to each of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes by the Central Government, or the State Government, or both of them, as the case may be, for the particular year;

Q.9. What is NULM ? What is the objective of NULM?

Ans: NULM means National Urban Livelihood Mission. NULM aims at Alleviation of Urban Poverty in the country.

Q.10. What are the main features of NULM ?

Ans: It focuses on organizing Urban Poor in Self Help Groups, Skill Development for Market - Based Employment and helping them to set up Self Employment Venture by ensuring credit on subsidized rate of interest. The scheme has multi pronged approach to mitigate poverty in urban areas.

Q.11 Whether the single beneficiary can avail the benefits of the various schemes of the NULM?

Ans: Yes. Single beneficiary can avail all the benefits from all components of NULM. But only one beneficiary id will be generated.

Q.12 What is meant by CO?

Ans: CO means Community organizer. COs will interact and will have direct interface with the urban poor and assist them in accessing all the benefits of NULM.

Q.13. Which Cities /Towns are presently covered under NULM ?

Ans: The Mission is implemented in all District Head-Quarters and other Cities with population of one lakh or more.

Q.14. What is the Objective of ESTP (Employment Through Skills and Training and Placement) ?

Ans: Under this component Urban Poor can learn new skills or upgrade their existing skills free of cost. The programme intends to fill the gap between the demand and availability of local skills by designing skill training programmes as required by the market.

Q.15. How ESTP (Employment Through Skills and Training and Placement) will help the Beneficiaries ?

Ans: It will help the Beneficiaries in setting up Self-Employment Ventures to secure salaried employment.

Q.16.What is the benefit under Self-Employment Programme (SEP) ?

Ans: The Urban poor who wishes to set up their own self-employment ventures/enterprises can avail bank loan on 7% rate of interest.

Q.17. What are the benefits that are available under the SHGS component ?

Ans: All the SHGS of Urban Poor can also avail bank loan on 7% rate of interest.

Q.18 What types of Shelters are in existence ?

Ans: Special Shelters need for segments of homeless persons mainly Mentally Ill, Recovering Patients and their families.

General Shelters: All shelters including Men Shelters, Women Shelters, Family Shelters.

Q.19. What are the benefits/object of Scheme of Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) ?

Ans: NULM also provides financial support to State Governments/ULBs for construction as well as operation management of permanent shelter for Urban Homeless. The shelters constructed must be equipped with all other essential requirements so that, the Urban Homeless in cities live a dignified life.

Q20. What is meant by SUSV?

Ans: SUSV stands for Support to Urban Street Vendors. It is an integral part of the economic growth process in urban areas

Q.21 What are the different Sub Components in SUSV?

- Ans:**
- 1-Street Vendor Survey
 - 2- Street Vendor Plan
 - 3- Vendor Market Development

Q.22 What is the support provided to Urban Street Vendors (SUSV) under NULM ?

Ans: NULM aims at skilling of street vendors. It also supports development of Vendor market, vending zone and informal sector markets with infrastructure such as paving, water supply, solid wastage disposal facility lighting, storage space etc.,

Q.23. What is meant by SEP-I & SEP-G ?

Ans: SEP-I stands for Self-Employment Programme for Individual.
SEP-G stands for Self-Employment Programme for Group.

Q.24 How many Members are required to form a group?

Ans: A group must have at least 5 members.

Q.25 Whether it is possible to add the same members in multiple SEP-G?

Ans: No. One person can be a member of one SEP-G only.

Q.26 How much amount can be approved by Task Force in SEP-I & SEP-G?

Ans: The amount approved by task force should be less than or equal to loan required amount applied by applicant. The Maximum limit for the SEP-I is 2 Lakh and for the SEP- G is 5 Lakh.

Q.27 What is the tenure period for the loan? Who will fix the loan tenure?

Ans: Loan tenure period should be ≥ 60 months and ≤ 84 Months i.e. 7 years. Loan tenure is fixed by the bank.

Q.28 What is SHG?

Ans: SHG means self help group. More than five members joined and then formed as a group. There should be name for the SHG and the Bank account should be opened in the name of SHG.

Q.29 What are the different types of SHG?

Ans: There are three types of SHG's 1. All Men 2. All Women 3. Mixed. SHG formed with all Male members are called as all men

Q.30 Who will conduct training for SHG?

Ans: Training programmes for the SHG's are conducted by the Resource Organisation (RO).

Q.31 What is meant by additional subsidy? Who are eligible? And How much?

Ans: An additional 3 percent interest subvention will be provided to all Women SHGs (WSHGs) who repay their loan in time. The Interest subsidy will be subject to timely repayment of the loan (as per the loan repayment schedule) and suitable certification obtained from banks by the ULB. The additional 3% interest subvention amount will be reimbursed to the eligible WSHGs. The banks should credit the amount of 3% interest subvention to the eligible WSHGs accounts and thereafter seek the reimbursement

Q.32 What is meant by Financial Literacy camp?

Ans: The ROs will organize camps on financial literacy for SHG members. In these Camps the beneficiaries will be made aware about savings, credit, remittance, Insurance etc., along with the modalities and operational requirements for accessing the same. The banks, financial Institutions, insurance agencies, micro finance agencies may be -encouraged to communicate with the urban poor through City Livelihood Centers (CLCs), campaigns etc

Q.33 What is meant by opening of Savings Bank Account?

Ans: The Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India has issued directions to all the banks to open one account per family in all rural and urban areas. In urban area, the Lead District Manager is required to allocate each ward to a particular bank for ensuring opening of an account for each family.

Q.34. What is meant by RSBY & JBY ?

Ans: RSBY stands for Rastreeya Swasthya Bheema Yojana

JBY stands for Janashree Bheema Yojana.

These are different insurance schemes.

Q.35. What is SJSRY ?

Ans: SJSRY means Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana and this scheme is launched by Govt of India in 1997 to provide gainful employment to urban unemployed or underemployed through setting up of self employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

Q.36. What are the components of SJSRY ?

Ans: SJSRY have 5 major components namely:

- i). Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP)
- ii). Urban Women Self-Help Programme (UWSP)
- iii). Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban poor (STEP-UP)
- iv). Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)
- v). Urban Community Development Network (UCDN)

Q.37. What is the Coverage of SJSRY ?

Ans: The target population under SJSRY is the urban poor; those living below the poverty line as defined by the Planning Commission from time to time.

Q.38. What should be the Educational Qualification of Beneficiaries ?

Ans: In the revised guideline of SJSRY no minimum or maximum educational qualification is prescribed.

Q.No.39 What are the functions of legal services institutions in the country?

The legal services institutions right from State Legal Services Authority to Mandal Legal Services Committee have been asked to discharge the following main functions -

- (i) to provide free and competent legal services to the eligible persons
- (ii) to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes
- (iii) to organize Legal Awareness Camps; and
- (iv) to implement the Schemes and policy directed by NALSA through strategic and preventive Legal Service Programmes.

Q.40. What is free Legal Aid?

Ans: Legal advice by a legal practitioner

Representation on behalf of entitled person in any legal proceedings.

Payment to the entitled person or on his behalf;

- Of court fee;
- Of process fee and expenses of witnesses;
- Of charges for preparation of paper book, including charges for printing and translation of documents;
- Of charges for the supply of certified copies of judgments and other documents
- Of any amount on any other account in any legal proceedings.

Q.41. Who is a Panel Lawyer?

Ans: “Panel Lawyer” means a lawyer selected under regulation 8 of the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations 2010 to render free and competent legal services to the deserving and needy persons under the Scheme.

Q.42. What is the role of Panel Lawyer?

Ans: Panel Lawyers and PLVs will help the beneficiaries under the Scheme to apply to DLSA to have access to various welfare schemes of the Government meant for benefit of beneficiaries under the Scheme and also in spreading awareness about the Scheme to the needy people.

Q.43. Who is a Para Legal Volunteer?

Ans: A person with basic knowledge of law and other available welfare measures and legislations with an inclination to assist their immediate neighbourhood is selected as Para Legal Volunteer by the concerned Legal Services Institution and trained to improve the legal services network.

Q.44. Who should be the Para Legal Volunteer?

Ans:

- Advocates, Teachers and lecturers of Government and Private Schools and Colleges of all levels.
- Anganwadi workers.
- Private or Government doctors and other Government employees.
- Field level officers of different departments and agencies of the State and Union Governments.
- Students of graduation and post graduation in Law, Education, social services of humanities.
- Members of apolitical service oriented Non Governmental Organizations and Clubs

- Members of Women Neighbourhood Groups, Maithri Sanghams Educated prisoners serving long terms sentences in Central Prison and District Prison.
- Social Workers and volunteers, volunteers of Panchayat Raj and Municipal institutions.
- Members of Cooperative Societies. Members of Trade Unions.
- Any other persons the District Legal Services Authority or Taluk Services Committee deems fit to be identified as Para Legal Volunteers

Q.45. What are the duties of trained Para Legal Volunteers and their Honorarium?

Ans: PLVs shall

1. educate people, specially those belonging to Weaker sections of the society,
2. spread awareness among the people about their basic human rights, fundamental rights to enjoy all the constitutionally and statutorily guaranteed rights
3. PLVs shall also constantly keep watch on violators of law or acts of injustice in their operation.
4. They will also assist in conducting legal literacy camps
5. They will work by sitting in front offices
6. They are eligible for a Honorarium of Rs250/- per day when engaged for rendering services in Legal Aid Clinics and Front Offices

Q.46. Whether the work of the Para Legal Volunteers is monitored regularly?

Ans: Yes. The Secretary of DLSA., shall monitor the work done by the PLVs every month and the PLVs shall maintain the prescribed Registers.

Q.47. Whether the Para Legal Volunteers can be disqualified and removed?

Ans: Yes. Para Legal Volunteer is disqualified if he/she

1. Fails to evince interest in the scheme
2. Has been adjudged as insolvent
3. Has been accused of an offence
4. Has become physically and mentally incapable
5. Has abused his or her position or misconduct in any manner so as to render his / her continuance prejudicial to the public interest.
6. Affiliated to political parties

Such para legal volunteer can be removed by the Chairman DLSA and has to intimate the same to the State Legal Services Authority

Q. 48. Who will take the responsibility of spreading awareness about the welfare schemes ?

Ans: As per the NALSA scheme, a team of panel lawyers, PLVs and social workers would be constituted for spreading awareness on welfare schemes of NALSA and also various Government Schemes to the needy people.

Q.49. What is the role of State Legal Services Authority in implementation of various Government Schemes and NALSA scheme ?

Ans: The State Legal Services Authorities have an important role to play in assisting the beneficiaries under the Scheme to have access to Poverty Alleviation Schemes. The State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) will have to bridge between the economically weaker sections / scheme beneficiaries and the Government Departments. The State Legal Services Authorities will have to ensure that Rule of law prevails. Restoring faith in the legal system, efficacy of rule of law is of prime importance. The Legal Services Institutions should explore activities in these areas by sensitizing NGOs, CBOs and other stake holders in realizing their duties and responsibilities for making the economically weaker sections to have access to Poverty Alleviation Schemes and to avail the benefit under the Scheme.

Q.50. What is the role of Nodal Officer in implementing the NALSA Scheme?

Ans: The Nodal Officer nominated in the District would be responsible for ensuring the convergence of NALSA Scheme with the policies, Schemes and Guidelines of the Government on the subject matter.

Q. 51. Whether sensitization of Judicial Officers with regard to Legal Services Schemes including this NALSA Scheme is essential?

Ans: Yes. Once all the Judicial Officers in the Country are properly sensitized with regard to the relevance and importance of legal aid schemes including this NALSA Scheme they shall themselves start caring for the poor, backward and weaker sections of the society who are not in a position to engage their own counsel and look after their legal causes.

Q.52. Who is the Competent Authority for payment of victim compensation as per the Telangana Victim Compensation Scheme, 2015?

Ans: The Member Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority is competent for payment of Victim Compensation as determined by the Court or as determined by the Legal Services Institutions on an enquiry.

Q.53. What is the role of District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee in implementation of the Scheme?

Ans: Every District Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee shall designate at least three panel lawyers as Legal Services Officers for the purpose of this Scheme.

1) District Authorities shall constitute teams of PLVs under a Legal Services Officer to implement this Scheme and the Legal Services Officer will supervise and mentor the PLVs in his team to help the beneficiaries to access various schemes of the Government.

2) District Authorities shall conduct specialized training programmes for panel of lawyers, members working in legal

services clinics, members of panchayats, law students and other para-legal volunteers to assist in the implementation of the Scheme, to sensitize them regarding the needs of persons belonging to socially and economically weaker sections and the benefits that they can avail through Poverty Alleviation Schemes.

Q.No.54.How legal assistance is provided to the scheme beneficiaries?

Ans: Legal assistance is provided to all the scheme beneficiaries which includes:

i) Informing the Scheme Beneficiaries about each of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes to which they are entitled, and the benefits thereunder.

ii) Assisting the Scheme Beneficiary in procuring the documents required for availing the benefits under any of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes

iii) Informing the Scheme Beneficiary of the name and the address of the designated authority or the officer to be approached for registration under any of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes

iv) Offering to send para-legal volunteers including from the legal services clinics with Scheme Beneficiaries to the office of the designated authority or the officer to be approached under any of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes

v) Informing the Scheme Beneficiary of her option to register a complaint with the Legal Services Officer or para legal volunteer about any designated authority or officer under any of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes who refuses to cooperate with the scheme beneficiary in providing her access to the benefits under the Poverty Alleviation Scheme for which the beneficiary is entitled.

Q.No.55. What is the mode of action of Legal Services Officers on receiving the complaints?

Ans: On receiving complaints under sub-clause (5) of clause 8, each Legal Services Officer shall herself personally accompany the complainant beneficiary to the office of the designated authority or officer, and assist the complainant beneficiary in availing the benefit for which the beneficiary is entitled.

In case the designated authority or officer fails to register the complainant beneficiary in the Poverty Alleviation Scheme, the Legal Services Officer shall submit a complaint to the District Authority.

Q.No.56. What is the mode of action of District Authority and State Authority on receiving the complaints?

Ans: On receiving a complaint regarding the designated authority or officer; the District Authority shall seek a report from the concerned officer regarding the reasons for denying the benefits under the Poverty Alleviation Scheme to the complainant beneficiary. In the event that sufficient reason is not provided by the concerned officer

for refusal to register the complainant beneficiary in the Poverty Alleviation Scheme or to provide benefits under the Poverty Alleviation Scheme, the District Authority shall immediately communicate to the superior officer in the department the details of the refusal to provide access to the Poverty Alleviation Scheme.

If the superior officer, in the opinion of the District Authority, also withholds the benefit under the Poverty Alleviation Scheme without sufficient cause, the District Authority shall then communicate the same to the State Authority.

On receiving such communication from the District Authority, the State Authority may choose to further pursue the matter with the concerned department (or) file appropriate legal proceedings to ensure that the complainant beneficiary receives the benefit under the Poverty Alleviation Scheme.

For Legal Aid and further details of this scheme may contact the following:

**Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities and
the Secretary of High Court Legal Services Committee**

Adilabad	-	9440901043
Nizamabad	-	9440901057
Karimnagar	-	9440901049
Khammam	-	9440901050
Warangal	-	9440901063
City Civil Court Legal Services Authority, Hyd.	-	9440901065
Nalgonda	-	9440901055
Ranga Reddy	-	9440901059
Mahaboobnagar	-	9440901053
Medak	-	9440901054
Metropolitan Legal Services Authority, Hyd	-	040-23442488
High Court Legal Services Committee, Hyd	-	9492358157

TOLL FREE HELP LINE No. 15100
