

**DR. N. C. SAXENA, COMMISSIONER AND
HARSH MANDER, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT
IN THE CASE: PUCL v. UOI & Ors. WRIT PETITION (Civil) No. 196 of 2001**

February 8th, 2008
NMBS/540/Uttaranchal

Shri. Surjit Kishore Das
Chief Secretary
Government of Uttaranchal
Uttaranchal Secretariat, 4,
Subhash Road
Dehradun
Uttaranchal.

Sub: Status of Implementation of NMBS/JSY in Uttaranchal.

Dear Shri. K Das,

As you know we have been appointed by the Supreme Court to monitor food and employment schemes under PUCL vs. Union of India, CWP 196/2001. We have recently submitted the seventh report on the implementation of these schemes all across the country to the Supreme Court. We would like to bring to your notice some issues of concern in relation to the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) in Uttaranchal.

We would also like to bring to your notice the latest order of the Supreme Court (dated 20.11.2007) which states that, "The Union of India and all the State Governments and the Union Territories shall (i) continue with the NMBS and (ii) ensure that all BPL pregnant women get cash assistance 8-12 weeks prior to the delivery." The above order also states that, "The amount shall be Rs.500/- per birth irrespective of number of children and the age of the women".

1. Since no data have been made available by the State, we don't have figures as to the coverage of beneficiaries of NMBS/JSY in the state for the year 2006-07. We request you please send us the data on the coverage of the beneficiaries under NMBS/JSY separately for home deliveries and institutional deliveries. We hope that there is no confusion regarding the scheme and that all BPL women are being given Rs. 500/- during pregnancy six to eight weeks before their delivery, irrespective of place of delivery.

Office of the Supreme Court Commissioners

B-102, First Floor Sarvodaya Enclave New Delhi 110017 Telefax: +91-11-41829631; phone: +91-11-26851335/339;

Email: commissioners@vsnl.net website: www.sccommissioners.org

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2. With regard to utilization of funds too, it is seen that the state spent only **70.5%** of the funds allocated under JSY by the Government of India. We urge that efforts must be made to spent the funds allocated completely to increase the reach of the scheme to all those who deserve.

We request the Government of Uttaranchal to look into the above listed matters and send us an action taken report on the same within two weeks time.

With regards,

Dr. N.C. Saxena

Harsh Mander