

Revised guidelines for extension of the Scheme "Assistance to States and UTs for Narcotics Control for another three (03) years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 for availing assistance for strengthening their enforcement capabilities in combating illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance.

INTRODUCTION

According to the latest assessments, there are approximately 4 Million drug addicts in India. The actual figure may be still higher. The most common drugs of abuse are ganja, hashish, opium and heroin. The abuse of pharmaceutical preparations like buprenorphine, codeine based cough syrups and painkillers like proxivon has also assumed serious proportions.

2. In certain regions of the country, drug abuse has already become a severe social-economic problem affecting the vulnerably age groups. It is, therefore, essential that State Governments/UTs are aware of the drug related problems in their States/UTs and address them in an effective manner before they assume epidemic proportions. The strategies would include both supply reduction and demand reduction. Supply reduction would include enforcement activities while demand reduction would involve rehabilitation and de-addiction measures.

3. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) being the national nodal agency for drug administration will process the requests from State Governments/UTs for financial assistance for improving their enforcement capabilities in dealing with the supply side of the drug menace.

4. A Scheme to finance State Governments/UTs to strengthen their enforcement capabilities for combating illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was launched by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on October 24th, 2004 for a period of 05 years up to 31.3.2009 and the same was extended again for 05 more years from 2009-10 to 2013-14 and the scheme was further extended for 03 years from 2014-15 to 2016-17 with an estimated budget of Rs.10.00 cores, Rs.15.00 crores and Rs.15.00 crores respectively. Considering the need for continuation of the Central Assistance Scheme and its objectives, the Government of India has now decided to extend this Scheme for a further period

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of 3 years i.e from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an estimated budget of Rs.21 crores.

REVISED SCHEME

5. This Scheme shall be referred to as "Assistance to States and UTs for Narcotics Control" and will be in operation from 1.4.2017 to 31.3.2020. The purpose of the Scheme is to assist State Governments/UTs who are contributing in controlling the inter-State and cross border drug trafficking. In order to achieve these objectives, financial assistance has been proposed to be provided to all the above agencies for strengthening their enforcement capabilities in combating illicit trafficking in narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances. Financial assistance is also proposed to be provided for all capacity building activities including training of personnel.

ELIGIBILITY

6. Financial assistance shall be provided only to those States/UTs which have established the following basic institutional arrangements for effective enforcement of anti narcotics laws:-

- a) A Multi-disciplinary Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary or Home Secretary will be established for regular interaction with various Central and State agencies including Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) for coordination and sharing of information and reviewing the drug situation in the State. The Coordination Committee may meet at regular intervals with a structured agenda on drug related matters.
- b) The States should set up an Anti Narcotics Task Force under an IG/DIG level officer with duties and responsibilities duly demarcated.
- c) The States will prepare Annual Action Plans to address narcotics related issues. The Action Plan should include, inter-alia, identification of regions, which are sensitive to drugs trafficking, requiring focused attention and strategy for action in these regions. The Action Plan should address both demand control and supply control strategies.

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NATURE OF ASSISTANCE

7. Assistance is provided for the following equipment: -

- i) Surveillance equipment;
- ii) Laboratory equipment;
- iii) Vehicles for patrolling/surveillance;
- iv) Computers and accessories;
- v) Fax machine and photocopiers and
- vi) Training equipment & other aids;
- vii) Other equipment useful for enforcement.

8. The above requirement of the States, will be examined by the 'Empowered Committee', constituted in the Union Home Ministry for the purpose. The scheme does not provide for assistance to meet recurring expenditure and therefore will be one time grant only with no matching assistance required. Assistance will be provided only to cells/units which are exclusively engaged with drug law enforcement. The assistance received shall not be diverted for other purposes.

9. Assistance will also be provided for special project falling within the mandate of NCB. The special projects would be those relating to non-enforcement activities. An example would be alternative development programmes in states, which have perennial problem of illicit cultivation. NCB would provide assistance for cultivation of agricultural products like cash crop, fruit crops and as such similar ventures which shall motivate cultivators to shift from illicit cultivation to other activities. Such proposals shall be mooted by the State Governments. As a National Nodal Agency, NCB shall encourage and support such programmes/activities which shall help in supply reduction.

APPROVAL MECHANISM

10. Proposals submitted by the eligible State Government would be placed before an 'Empowered Committee' consisting of Special Secretary(IS), MHA as Chairman and AS &FA(Home), DG (NCB) and JS (IS-II), MHA as the members. The eligibility would be decided on the basis of the gravity of the problem in the concerned State(s) target group, the present infrastructure of the State Government to tackle the problem etc. The criteria, manner and kind of assistance will be determined by the 'Empowered Committee'. The assistance would be in the form of a Grant for

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Creation of Capital assets to States with no matching assistance required.

11. State Governments shall submit an Action Plan for the 03 years duration and also submit the split up Annual Plan in respect of each of these 3 years

12. The Grant for Creation of Capital assets will be given upfront on an annual basis subject to submission of Utilization Certificate and Audit Certificate in respect of utilization of grants received earlier. Funds in the first year i.e. 2017-18 will be released on the basis of approval of the proposal by MHA. In the subsequent years, the funds will be released based on UCs submitted by the States in terms of Rule 239 of GFR 2017 along with Audit Certificate in respect of utilization of funds received earlier. While releasing the funds in the second and third years, the unspent balances reported by the States in the UCs submitted by them will be adjusted from the allocation of a particular year.

MONITORING MECHANISM

13. The implementation of the Scheme will be monitored by IS-II Division, Ministry of Home Affairs and DG, Narcotics Control Bureau. The State Governments/UTs who avail of assistance under the Scheme, shall furnish annual performance in the proforma prescribed by NCB.

14. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) will call meeting of all the ANTF Head/Senior officials of State & UTs for better management of the Scheme.

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BUDGET ALLOCATION UNDER THE SCHEME "ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND UTs FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL".

The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has extended this scheme for another period of 03 years i.e 2017-18 to 2019-20 with estimated budget of Rs. 21 Crore.

The allocated budget for another 03 years is as under:

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| 1. 2017-18 - | Rs. 5 Crore (Further 2 Crore to be allocated under R.E.) |
| 2. 2018-19 - | Rs.7 Crore |
| 3. 2019-20 - | Rs.7 Crore |