

## **Preface**

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is being implemented by Ministry of Rural Development for last 27 years, since it was launched on 15 August 1995, to provide social assistance benefit to the BPL households in the case of the old age, disabled, widows and death of the primary breadwinner.

Both Central and State schemes combined, 4.65 crore beneficiaries availed old age, widow, disability pensions and family benefit annually on an average during 2017-21. The Government of India released ₹ 8,608 crore per annum on an average during 2017-21. In addition, States and Union Territories (UTs) have also allocated ₹ 27,393 crore per year on an average during the said period for pension and family benefit.

This Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2021 contains the results of Performance Audit of National Social Assistance Programme covering the period 2017-18 to 2020-21.

This Report has been prepared for submission to the President of India under Article 151 of the Constitution of India.

The audit has been conducted in conformity with the Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

