

## CHAPTER 18

### PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Public Distribution System is a government-sponsored chain of shops entrusted with the work of distributing basic food and non-food commodities to the marginalized sections of the society at affordable prices. The main objective of Public Distribution System is to ensure food security to each and every citizen. The Public distribution system (PDS) in Delhi is established under the Department of Food & Civil Supplies. Delhi was the first state to implement the National Food Security Act, 2013 w.e.f. 1st Sept. 2013 soon after enactment of NFS Act, 2013 by Government of India.

- 1.2 The public distribution system in Delhi distributes wheat and rice to all food card holders under the NFS Act and sugar to only Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) card holders. Government has designated Delhi Public Grievance Commission as the State Food Commission for effective and timely redressal of grievances of beneficiaries. Many reform measures are taken by GNCTD to make the PDS more transparent like issuing SMS alerts to the beneficiaries and setting up helpline numbers i.e. 1967 & 1800-110-841 for attending complaint / grievance from public.

#### 2. Status of Public Distribution System in Delhi

- 2.1 Public Distribution network of GNCTD comprising of 2029 Fair Price Shops (FPS) across the Delhi catering to 71.08 lakh population through 17.50 lakh digital food security cards as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. These Food Security Ration Cards are Aadhar enabled. The challenges to any PDS are correct identification of households and ensuring leak proof delivery system. The Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs has been undertaking verification of beneficiary data from time to time as mandated under NFSA. The number of Fair Price Shops and the total number of Ration Cards issued by GNCTD in the last 8 Years is given below in statement 18.1

#### Statement 18.1

##### DETAILS OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DELHI – 2012-13 to 2019-20

S.No	Years	No. of Ration Cards (in lakh)	No. of Fair Price Shops (FPS)	Licensed Shops for Kerosene
1	2012-13	34.35	2479	1829
2	2013-14	17.79	2396	NIL
3	2014-15	17.00	2310	

S.No	Years	No. of Ration Cards (in lakh)	No. of Fair Price Shops (FPS)	Licensed Shops for Kerosene
4	2015-16	19.50	2283	
5	2016-17	19.41	2254	
6	2017-18	19.41	2210	
7	2018-19	17.17	2057	
8	2019-20	17.50	2029	

2.2 It can be seen from the above Statement that the number of Ration Card holders dropped significantly from 34.35 lakh in 2012-13 to 17.50 lakh in 2019-20 due to implementation of National Food Security Act in Delhi w.e.f. September 2013. This is due to exclusion of non-entitled beneficiaries from the total beneficiaries and mainly due to the ceiling of the annual income of ₹ 1 lakh & other exclusion criteria under Priority Group (PR) and eligibility of AAY beneficiaries. There is no licensed shop for distribution of Kerosene under TPDS in Government of NCT of Delhi since Delhi had become a kerosene-free city in 2013-14.

2.3 The number of fair price shops in Delhi as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 is 2029 and on an average, each fair price shops has about 863 Ration Cards as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. District-wise distribution of ration cards and fair price shops is presented in statement 18.2

### Statement 18.2

#### DISTRICT-WISE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DELHI -2019-20

S. No.	Districts	Ration cards	Per cent	FPS	Per cent	Members	Per cent
1	North East	277338	15.84	320	15.77	1165614	16.40
2	East	160549	9.17	213	10.50	666016	9.37
3	Central	130423	7.45	139	6.85	507907	7.15
4	South West	234650	13.41	301	14.83	933007	13.13
5	South	208983	11.94	255	12.57	861598	12.11
6	New Delhi	81827	4.67	101	4.98	327709	4.60
7	West	189433	10.83	247	12.18	761675	10.72
8	North West	307765	17.58	302	14.88	1260134	17.73
9	North	159551	9.11	151	7.44	624568	8.79
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1750519</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7108228</b>	<b>100</b>

2.4 It can be seen from above Statement that the highest number of card holders were reported during 2019-20 in the North West District, whereas, the highest number of fair price shop are reported in the North East District of Delhi.

3. **Entitlement of beneficiaries:** The beneficiaries are entitled to food grains under different categories as per statement 18.3.

**Statement 18.3**

**FOOD GRAINS ENTITLEMENT OF BENEFICIARIES PER MONTH AND THE RATE**

S. No.	Commodity	Category	Quantity	Rate (₹ / kg)
1	Wheat	AAY	25 Kg/Per Card	2.00
		PR	4 Kg/Member	
2	Rice	AAY	10 Kg/Per Card	3.00
		PR	1 Kg/Member	
3	Sugar	AAY	1 Kg/Per Card	13.50

Note: AAY- Antyodaya Anna Yojana, PR- Priority Household category.

4. The information regarding the quantity of cereals and sugar allotted to Delhi and the distribution of the same through the public distribution system in Delhi during 2018-19 and 2019-20 is depicted in statement 18.4

**Statement 18.4**

**DISTRIBUTION OF CEREALS AND SUGAR THROUGH PDS IN DELHI during 2018-19 & 2019-20**

(Quantity in '000 MT)

S. No.	Details	Items					
		Rice (NFS)		Wheat (NFS)		Sugar (Other than NFS)	
		2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20
1	Quantity Allotted	81.08	88.34	312.79	341.26	0.74	0.78
2	Quantity Lifted for Distribution	81.07	88.34	312.78	341.26	0.72	0.78
3	Percentage of Quantity Distributed	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.99	97.30	99.67

It has been seen from the table above that almost cent percent of rice, wheat and sugar lifted by Govt. was distributed to the beneficiaries under NFS.

5. **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** is a step in the direction of making TPDS aim at reducing hunger among the poorest segments of the BPL population. In order

to make TPDS more focused and targeted towards this category of population, the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for the poor families who are unable to get two square meals a day on a sustained basis throughout the year and their purchasing power is so low that they are not in a position to buy food grains round the year. Under the Scheme, the poorest of poor who are at the starving threshold are being provided 35 kg of food grains (25 kg wheat and 10 kg rice) per month, wheat @ ₹ 2/- per kg and rice @ ₹ 3/- per kg. As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, total 68,609 families consisting of 2,78,944 members were the beneficiaries under this scheme in Delhi.

## **6. Food Grains at BPL Rates to Welfare Institutions/Hostel Scheme**

As per Government of India Scheme, Govt. of NCT of Delhi is providing food grains at BPL rates to destitute people living in the government owned / run welfare institutions and SC/ST & OBC hostels such as Bal Niketan, Children Home for Girls, Short Stay Home for Women, Widow Home for Women, After Care Home for Women, Observation Home for Girls, Nari Niketan, Balika Greh. As on 31-03-2020, there were 232 inmates in the above institutes. The food grain are made available at subsidized rates to these welfare institutions and hostels as per the allocation received from Government of India.

## **7. KEROSENE FREE CITY – LPG CONNECTION FOR EWS**

Govt. has decided to make Delhi as Kerosene Free City in the year 2012-13. Under this Scheme, Govt. of NCT of Delhi has provided free LPG connection with an LPG filled cylinder along with two burner Chullah and other accessories to kerosene oil user Ration Cardholders. The scheme was launched on 21.08.2012. The total number of kerosene oil users as per the e-PDS database in Delhi was 356395. The scheme has been discontinued since September 2013 and Delhi has been declared as "Kerosene Free City" in October 2013. Distribution of Kerosene oil in GNCT of Delhi under PDS has been stopped.

## **8. Technology based reforms to TDPS undertaken by NCT of Delhi**

### **(i) SMS ALERTS REGARDING DISPATCH OF RATION TO FPS**

In order to computerize Supply Chain Management of PDS operations, Specified Food Articles (SFA), off take module has been implemented in Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation. SMS alert is being sent to Vigilance Committee headed by the Hon'ble MLA of the area, Concerned FSO, Inspectors and Ration Cardholders who have registered their mobile numbers in the website, as and when SFA is dispatched from the godown. Any Ration Cardholder can receive SMS pertaining to concerned FPS, by registering their mobile number on the link: [www.nfs.delhigovt.nic.in](http://www.nfs.delhigovt.nic.in)

## (ii) e-RATION CARD

Facility of e-ration card has been operationalized w.e.f April 2015. About 15,32,525 Ration Cardholders have availed the benefit by downloading the ration card from their respective places during the last 5-6 years. This has brought transparency and efficient delivery of the facility of ration card to the beneficiaries.

## 9. PAHAL

9.1 PAHAL scheme was earlier launched on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013. It required the consumer to mandatorily have an Aadhar number for availing LPG Subsidy. After examining the difficulties faced by Consumers, the Government modified the scheme and re-launched it on 15-11-2014.

9.2 Under the modified PAHAL Scheme, LPG Consumer can receive a subsidy in his/her bank account by two methods. Such a consumer is called CTC (Cash Transfer Compliant) once he / she joins the scheme and is ready to receive a subsidy in the bank account. There are two options are available for getting subsidies as under :

- Option I (Primary): wherever Aadhaar number is available it will remain the medium of cash transfer. Thus, an LPG consumer who has an Aadhaar Number has to link it to the bank account number and to the LPG consumer number.
- Option II (Secondary): If LPG consumer does not have an Aadhaar number, then he can directly receive the subsidy in his/ her bank account without the use of Aadhaar number. This option has been introduced through the modified scheme which ensures that LPG subsidy is not denied to an LPG consumer on account of non availability of Aadhaar Number.

### **Status of PAHAL in Delhi as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020:**

Total No. of LPG Consumers	49,55,648
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries (CTC Consumers)	41,61,478
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries seeded with Aadhar ATC (Number)	38,80,991
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries seeded with Aadhar ATC (%)	78.31 %

## 10. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

In order to address the food needs of PDS beneficiaries during the pandemic COVID 19 additional 5 kg of food grains (4 kg wheat and 1 kg rice) per beneficiary member per month and 1 kg dal per household per month was allocated by the Government of India to be provided free of cost to all NFS beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana during April 2020 to November 2020.

## 11. **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Initiative:**

In order to benefit the people who are not covered under NFSA or State PDS scheme including migrants/stranded migrants to help/mitigate their plight during this precarious COVID 19 situation and to ensure availability of food grain to them, provision of distribution of 4 kg wheat and 1 kg Rice per month along with 1 kg of whole Chana per household per month free of cost for the month of May and June 2020 was done through Fair Price Shops to approximately 4.5 lakh beneficiaries till 31.8.2020 under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Initiative of Govt. of India.

## 12. **Mukhya Mantri Corona Sahayta Yojana (Non-PDS Scheme) :**

12.1 In view of the impact of the restrictions imposed due to the nation wide lockdown to prevent the spread of (COVID-19) and consequent loss of livelihood, in order to provide food security and ensure that no one suffers from hunger/starvation in Delhi, a special food relief initiative-Mukhya Mantri Corona Sahayata Yojana was launched to provide dry-ration to all persons in need of food and not in possession of ration-card. Accordingly, similar to the entitlement under NFSA, provision of 5 kg of food grains per beneficiary member @ 4 Kg Wheat and 1 Kg Rice free of cost, was made against 69.60 lakh e-coupons for individuals under Non PDS category who are not covered under regular Public Distribution System through approximately 550 Designated Distribution Centers across Delhi from 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. Out of provision for 69.60 lakh e-coupons, emergency relief coupons @ 2000 beneficiaries for each Hon'ble MP and Hon'ble MLA of Delhi and 20000 Coupons for Hon'ble Minister, F&S, on two occasions were made available for the most vulnerable, destitute and disadvantaged people who were in need of food but do not have ration card/aadhar card through MPs/MLAs of the State for availing dry ration under non-PDS scheme.

12.2 Further, in order to reduce the economic hardship, provision was made to distribute one "Essential-items kit" per household during the Month of May 2020 (Phase-II), to both PDS and Non PDS households. The kit comprised of eight items including 1 kg refined oil, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg salt, 1 kg chhole channa, 200 gm chili powder, 200 gm dhaniya powder, 200 gm haldi powder and two soap bars to enable households to prepare decent hygienic meals.

## 13. **Distribution of Dry Ration to Sex Workers**

13.1 In order to comply with the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 29.09.2020, in the matter of IA 80140/2020, in Criminal Appeal No(s).135/2010 Budhadev Karmaskar Versus The State of West Bengal & Ors, provision of dry ration i.e. 4 kg wheat and 1 kg rice per sex worker free of cost to registered sex workers with National Aids Control Organization (NACO)

through NGOs was made from the food grains available under Non-PDS scheme (Mukhya Mantri Corona Sahayta Yojana).

- 13.2 As per field report, dry ration to the tune of 64219 kg wheat and 15795 kg. rice has been provided to NGOs for further distribution to the 15782 sex workers as per the list provided by them till 14/01/2021. The distribution of dry ration to sex workers through NGOs/TIs in coordination with Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) and District Magistrates is ongoing.

#### **14. Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna :**

- 14.1 Under this scheme, people will no longer have to visit the ration shop and the ration will be transported to people's homes with due respect. People will be provided with both the option of going to a shop and buying ration or delivery of ration at their doorstep. They can pick either as per their preference. In the delivery, the flour will be provided instead of the wheat. Government of NCT of Delhi has decided to implement the scheme keeping in view the comfort of the beneficiaries in terms of saving in man-hours otherwise lost for getting the ration through various FPSs, saving in cost of processed food grains ready for consumption at their door steps and bringing transparency in the PDS System.
- 14.2 The scheme will be segregated in two stages. The Stage-1 include lifting, transportation, milling/processing, packaging and delivery of processed commodity up to the storage location of doorstep delivery of ration and reporting. The stage-1 will be implemented with the support of DSCSC. The Stage-2 includes setting up of FPS cum storage space, doorstep delivery of ration and reporting. This stage will be implemented with the support of any reputed Cooperative Society of GNCTD.
- 14.3 The overall responsibility of monitoring and implementation of the scheme would be of Department of Food and Civil Supplies, GNCTD.