

CHAPTER 18

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Public distribution system in Delhi aimed at giving food security to the poor sections of the society by making available subsidized food items. Major commodities in the public distribution system include wheat, rice, and sugar. It provides rationed amounts of basic food items to around 72 lakh consumers through a network of 2430 Fair Price Shops. The public distribution system also plays a crucial role in regulating prices of basic food items.

2. National Food Security Act, 2013

During September 2013, Parliament passed the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. The NFSA seeks to make the right to food a legal entitlement by providing subsidised food grains to nearly two-thirds of the population. The Act relies on the existing Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) mechanism to deliver these entitlements. The National Food Security Act gives statutory backing to the TPDS. This legislation marks a shift in the right to food as a legal right rather than a general entitlement. The Act classifies the population into three categories: excluded (i.e., no entitlement), priority (entitlement), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY; higher entitlement). It also establishes responsibilities for the Centre and States and creates a grievance redressal mechanism to address non-delivery of entitlements.

3. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India, in the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order dated 20th March 2015 has earmarked the targeted beneficiaries for Delhi as 72.78 lakh including 1.57 lakh families under AAY category (Antyodaya Anna Yojna) and the balance beneficiaries under Priority Categories. This targeted AAY beneficiaries includes existing Antyodaya households shall not exceed the ceiling decided by GOI. Remaining beneficiaries will be covered under Priority household category to be identified by the State Government.
4. Delhi is one of pioneer state in implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 w.e.f. 1st Sept., 2013 National Food Security Smart Cards of 17.68 lakh have been issued to eligible households covering total beneficiaries of 62.55 lakh for disbursement of food entitlements under National Food Security Act, 2013 after verifications of eligible beneficiaries as on 10th May 2015. Almost all the digital Food Security Cards are Aadhar enabled.

5. The Department of Food and Civil Supplies, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, manages the public distribution system in Delhi. At present, public distribution system in Delhi is confined to cereals, wheat and rice and another essential commodity viz. sugar. In Delhi, public distribution system comprised of a network of Fair Price Shops for making available specified articles at controlled prices through household consumer cards, commonly called ration cards.
6. The food entitlements to various categories of beneficiaries under Targetted Public Distribution System is as under:

Category Wise Commodity Entitlement and Rate

S. No	Commodity	Category	Quantity	Rate(₹/kg)
1	Rice	AAY	10 Kg/Per Card	3
		PR	1 Kg/Member	
		PR-S	1 Kg/Member	
2	Sugar	AAY	6 Kg/Per Card	13.50
		PR-S	6 Kg/Per Card	
3	Wheat	AAY	25 Kg/Per Card	2
		PR	4 Kg/Member	
		PR-S	4 Kg/Member	

Note: AAY-Antyodaya Anna Yojna, PR- Priority category, PR-S: selected Priority Category having sugar entitlement.

7. Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, card holders are identified as AAY families and priority household families (PR). AAY families cardholders are entitled to get 25 kg wheat and 10 kg rice @ ₹ 2/- and ₹ 3/- respectively per card per month. Priority house card holders are entitled to get 4 kg wheat and 1 kg rice per month per member at ₹ 2/- per kg wheat and ₹ 3/- per kg rice.
8. The number of cards, fair price shops and licensed shops for kerosene in Delhi is presented in Statement 18.1.

Statement 18.1

DETAILS OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DELHI-2001-2015

S. No.	Years	No. of Ration Cards (in thousands)	No. of Fair Price Shops (FPS)	Licensed Shops for Kerosene
1	2001-02	3689	2975	2508
2	2002-03	3838	2953	2521
3	2003-04	3867	3131	2528
4	2004-05	3990	3114	2475
5	2005-06	2595	2731	2443
6	2006-07	2814	2772	2443
7	2007-08	2803	2546	2346
8	2008-09	3140	2546	2234
9	2009-10	3112	2525	2346
10	2010-11	3226	2474	2365
11	2011-12	3339	2498	2361
12	2012-13	3435	2479	1829
13	2013-14	1779	2396	Nil
14	2014-15	1700	2310	Nil
15	2015-16 (upto May15)	1791	2430	Nil

Source: Deptt. of Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs, GNCTD.

9. As may be seen from the table above, the Number of ration card holders has been dropped significantly from 34.35 lakh in 2012-13 to 17 lakh in 2014-15 in the post implementation of National Food Security Act in Delhi w.e.f September 2013 after exclusion of non-entitled beneficiaries. All those households are eligible to food security entitlements having annual income of ₹ 1 lakh under Priority Group (PR) and eligibility of AAY beneficiaries as earlier decided by planning Commission, Govt. of India.
10. It may be inferred from Statement 18.1 that the number of fair price shops in Delhi as on 31st march, 2015 was 2310. On an average each fair price shops handles more than 736 ration cards as on 31st March, 2015.
11. The information regarding 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 -2014-15

S.No.	Districts	Ration cards	Per cent	FPS	Percent
1.	North East	254072	14.94	347	15.02
2.	East	163129	9.6	252	10.91
3.	Central	127847	7.52	178	7.71
4.	South West	244519	14.38	312	13.51
5.	South	198645	11.68	292	12.64
6.	New Delhi	79202	4.66	148	6.41
7.	West	196730	11.56	280	12.12
8.	North West	281727	16.57	287	12.42
9.	North	154715	9.09	214	9.26
	Total	1700586		2310	

Source: Deptt. of Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs, GNCTD.

12. It may be observed from Statement 18.2 that the highest number of cards during 2014-15 was in North West District of Delhi. While highest number of fair price shop is in North East District. The information regarding quantity of cereals and sugar allotted to Delhi and the distribution of the same through the public distribution system in Delhi during 2013-15 is depicted in statement 18.3.

Statement 18.3
DISTRIBUTION OF CEREALS AND SUGAR THROUGH PDS
IN DELHI 2013-14 & 2014-15

(In Quintal)

No	Details	Items					
		Rice		Wheat		Sugar	
		2013-14	2014-15 (NFS)	2013-14	2014-15 (NFS)	2013-14	2014-15
I	Quantity Allotted						
	APL	939540	309340	3018300	957650	Nil	Nil
	PR+AAY(NFS)	481780	518040	1413900	1919040	261000	313200
	Total	1421320	827380	4432200	2876690	261000	313200
II	Quantity Lifted for Distribution						
	APL	683166	231138	2789081	1039003	Nil	Nil
	PR+AAY(NFS)	447334	513269	1384450	1910274	196186	201545
	Total	1130500	744407	4173531	2949277	196186	201545
III	Percentage Distributed						
	APL	72.71	74.71	92.4	108	Nil	Nil
	PR+AAY(NFS)	92.85	99.08	97.91	99.5	75.16	64.35
	Total	79.53	89.9	94.2	102.5		

Source: Deptt. of Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs, GNCTD.

13. It may be seen from the table above that the percentage of distributed rice and wheat to the below poverty line recorded cent percent. During the period 2013-14 and 2014-15, distribution of rice and wheat under NFS is near to hundred percent and distribution of wheat for the year 2014-15 under APL category is hundred percent.

14. **Antyodaya Anna Yojna**

The Scheme is for the poorest section of population which is 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 even at BPL rates. 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.

15. **Food Grains at BPL Rates to Welfare Institutions**

As per Government of India Scheme, Govt. of NCT of Delhi has decided to provide food grains at BPL rates to destitute people living in welfare institutions such as beggar home, hostels for SC/ST & OBC student, home for street children, neglected and delinquent and abandoned children, juvenile, older persons, nari niketan etc. The food grain would be made available to these welfare institutions, depending on the rates at which the allocation is received from Government of India. Applications can be obtained from Circle Offices. Twenty one such institutions are registered with the Department of Food and Supplies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

16. **KEROSINE 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 is providing free LPG connection with a LPG filled cylinder along with two burner chullah and other accessories to kerosene oil user cardholders. The scheme was launched on 21.08.2012. The total number of kerosene oil users as per e-PDS database in Delhi are 356395. The scheme has since 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.

17. DELHI STATE FOOD COMMISSION

Govt. of Delhi is in the process of setting up of State food commission and making it functional, in terms of the provision of National Food Security Act, to handle the grievance redressal mechanism and to address non-delivery of entitlements to the eligible beneficiaries. The Commission will monitor and review of implementation of FSA in efficient and transparent manner.

18. SMS ALERTS REGARDING DISPATCH OF RATION TO FPS

Recently in order to computerize Supply Chain Management of PDS operations, sugar offtake 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 card holders who have registered in the website, as and when sugar is dispatched from sugar godown. Any one can receive SMS pertaining to any FPS, by registering their mobile number on the link:www.nfs.delhigovt.nic.in

19. BUFFER STOCK OF ONION AND POTATO

In order to regulate the prices of onion and potato at the time of scarcity of the commodity in the market, mainly during July-October, Govt. of Delhi has decided to have market intervention through creating buffer stock of Onion & Potato and selling in the retail market through Fair Price Shops and other government outlets. This scheme has been approved to be implemented in 2015-16.