

CHAPTER 18

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

A well designed, efficient and transparent Public Distribution System is the key to achieve food security. “End Hunger”, an aspirational goal under Sustainable Development Goal framework (SDG -2) reassures and emphasize achieving food security, improved nutrition and to promote agriculture by 2030 as a global development agenda. The Public Distribution System in Delhi managed by the Department of Food Supply and Consumer Affairs has efficiently been providing food grains, mainly rice and wheat to marginalised section of the society through Aadhar enabled and digital food security cards. 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.

2. The public distribution system in Delhi distributes wheat and rice to all food cards holders under the NFS Act and sugar to only AAY cardholders. 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.
3. The challenges to any PDS is correct identification of households and ensuring leaking 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. Public Distribution network of GNCTD comprising of 2057 FPS across the Delhi catering to 69.02 lakh population through 17.17 lakh food security cards as on 31st March 2019. These food security cards are Aadhar enabled. At Present there are 2016 FPS providing food grains to 70.97 lakh beneficiaries through 17.49 lakh food security cards as on February, 2020.
4. The food entitlement to various categories of beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System is given in statement 18.1:

Statement 18.1

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.

5. The number of Fair Price Shops and the total number of Ration Cards issued by GNCTD in the last 7 Years is given below in statement 18.2.

Statement 18.2

DETAILS OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DELHI-2012-2018

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	
4	2015-16	19.50	2283	
5	2016-17	19.41	2254	
6	2017-18	19.41	2210	
7	2018-19	17.17	2057	

6. It may be seen from the Statement 18.2 that the number of Ration Card holders dropped significantly from 34.35 lakh in 2012-13 to 17.79 lakh in 2013-14 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.
7. The number of fair price shops in Delhi as on 31st March 2019 was 2057 and on an average, each fair price shops has about 835 Ration Cards as on 31st March 2019. District-wise distribution of ration cards and fair price shops is presented in Statement 18.3

Statement 18.3

DISTRICT-WISE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DELHI - 2018-19

S. No.	Districts	Ration cards	Per cent	FPS	Per cent	Members	Per cent
1	North East	273750	15.94	323	15.70	1126889	16.33
2	East	158094	9.21	221	10.74	653172	9.46
3	Central	125646	7.32	138	6.70	480080	6.95
4	South West	229214	13.35	301	14.63	899694	13.04
5	South	205504	11.97	258	12.54	835811	12.11
6	New Delhi	80521	4.69	103	5.00	320660	4.65
7	West	187799	10.93	247	12.00	746162	10.81
8	North West	302349	17.61	311	15.11	1236878	17.92
9	North	154221	8.98	155	7.53	602497	8.73
	Total	1717098	100.00	2057	100.00	6901843	100.00

8. It may be observed from Statement 18.3 that the highest number of cards during 2018-19 was in the North West District of Delhi, whereas, the highest number of fair price shop was in the North East District.
9. 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 2017-18 and 2018-19 is depicted in statement 18.4.

Statement 18.4

DISTRIBUTION OF CEREALS AND SUGAR THROUGH PDS IN DELHI 2017-18 & 2018-19

(Quantity in '000 MT)

S. No.	Details	Items					
		Rice (NFS)		Wheat (NFS)		Sugar (Other than NFS)	
		2017-18	2018-19	2017-18	2018-19	2017-18	2018-19
I	Quantity Allotted	92.50	81.08	356.71	312.79	5.39	0.74
II	Quantity Lifted for Distribution	92.50	81.07	356.70	312.78	5.37	0.72
III	Percentage Distributed	100.00	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.63	97.30

10. It may be seen from the table above that almost cent percentage of rice and wheat lifted by Govt. were distributed to the beneficiaries under NFS. Distribution of sugar during 2018-19 is also near to 100%.

11. Antyodaya Anna Yojana

The Scheme is for the poorest section of the population 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. Total 68,582 families consisting of 2,78,521 members are currently under this scheme.

12. 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 31-03-2019, there were 266 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.

13. 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 cardholders. The scheme was launched on 21.08.2012. The total number of kerosene oil users as per the e-PDS database in Delhi were 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.

14. DELHI STATE FOOD COMMISSION

Govt. of Delhi is in the process of setting up of an independent 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 the implementation of NFSA in efficient and transparent manner. Presently

Public Grievance Commission, Delhi has been designated to work as State Food Commission under NFS Act, 2013.

15. 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 cardholders who have registered their mobile numbers in the website, as and when SFA is dispatched from the godown. Any Cardholder can receive SMS pertaining to concerned FPS, by registering their mobile number on the link: www.nfs.delhigovt.nic.in.

16. POINT OF SALE DEVICE

The e-PoS project was implemented at all FPS w.e.f. 01.01.2018 through M/s Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) as System Integrator. The month-wise number of Ration Card holders who availed ration through the e-PoS system is as under:

Month	No. of Card Holders
January,2018	15,15,769
February,2018	15,29,980
March,2018	15,48,801
April,2018	15,29,074

The e-PoS based distribution of foodgrains has been suspended w.e.f. 25-04-2018 in compliance of Cabinet Decision dated 20-02-2018.

17. RATION CARD PORTABILITY

With the introduction of the e-PoS facility, all ration cardholders were enabled to collect their SFA from any FPS in Delhi. Month-wise number of ration cardholders who availed ration through portability is as under:-

Month	No. of Card Holders
January, 2018	1,67,748
February, 2018	2,96,737
March, 2018	3,98,569
April, 2018	4,60,972

18. e-RATION CARD

Facility of e-ration card has been operationalized w.e.f. April 2015. About 13,46,412 ration cardholders have availed the benefit by downloading the ration card from their respective places during the last 4-5 years. This has brought transparency and efficient delivery of the facility of ration card to the beneficiaries.

19. PAHAL

19.1 PAHAL scheme was earlier launched on 1st 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.

19.2 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. Option are:

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 which has been introduced in the modified scheme ensures that LPG subsidy is not denied to an LPG consumer on account of lack of Aadhaar number.

20. Status of PAHAL in Delhi as on 31st March 2019:

Total No. of LPG Consumers	49,42,352
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries (CTC Consumers)	40,89,351
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries seeded with Aadhar ATC (Number)	38,45,857
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries seeded with Aadhar ATC (%)	77.8 %