

CHAPTER 18

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 has been implemented in NCT of Delhi w.e.f. September, 2013 with the objective of ensuring food security to eligible beneficiaries. Under the NFSA, 5 Kg of Wheat/Rice per person per month is provided to Priority Household (PHH) and 35 Kg of Wheat/Rice per Household per month to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Card Holders through a network of 1953 Fair Price Shops (FPSs) entrusted with distribution of Specified Food Articles (SFAs). The main objective of Public Distribution System (PDS) is to ensure food security for all eligible citizen in Delhi. The PDS in Delhi is administered by the Department of Food, Supplies and consumer affairs, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. Notably, Delhi was one of the first States to implement the NFSA, 2013 immediately after enactment of the Act by Government of India.

- 1.2 The public distribution system in Delhi distributes wheat and rice to all eligible ration card holders covered under the NFSA, 2013 while sugar is distributed exclusively to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) card holders. The Government has designated the Delhi Public Grievance Commission (DPGC) as the State Food Commission for ensuring effective and timely redressal of grievances of beneficiaries. Further, several reform measures have been undertaken by GNCTD to make the PDS more transparent and efficient including establishment of dedicated helpline numbers (1967 & 1800-11-0841) for lodging complaints and grievances.

2. Status of Public Distribution System in Delhi

The Public Distribution Network of GNCTD comprising of around 1971 Fair Price Shops (FPS) across Delhi, catering to 72.21 lakh beneficiaries through 17.18 lakh digital Food Security Ration Cards as on 31st March 2025. All Food Security Ration Cards are Aadhar enabled. The Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs has been undertaking regular updation of beneficiary data from time to time as mandated under NFSA, 2013 to ensure accuracy and removal of ineligible beneficiaries. The details regarding the number of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and the total number of Ration Cards issued by GNCTD during the last 10 Years are provided in statement 18.1

STATEMENT 18.1

DETAILS OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DELHI: 2015-16 to 2024-25

S. No.	Years	No. of Ration Cards (in lakh)	No. of Fair Price Shops (FPS)
1	2015-16	19.50	2283
2	2016-17	19.41	2254
3	2017-18	19.41	2210
4	2018-19	17.17	2057
5	2019-20	17.50	2029
6	2020-21	17.77	2000
7	2021-22	17.80	2009
8	2022-23	17.84	1997
9	2023-24	17.81	1980
10	2024-25	17.18	1953

As on March, 2025, the number of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) functioning in Delhi is 1953 and on an average, each Fair Price Shop cater to 903 Ration Cards. 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 -2024-25

S. No.	Districts	No. of FPS	Percent (%)	No. of Ration Cards	Percent (%)	No. of Beneficiaries	Percent (%)
1	CENTRAL	130	6.66%	1,34,066	7.80%	5,43,202	7.52%
2	EAST	203	10.39%	1,53,412	8.93%	6,52,484	9.04%
3	NEW DELHI	90	4.60%	80,697	4.70%	3,42,412	4.74%
4	NORTH	155	7.94%	1,54,098	8.97%	6,16,734	8.54%
5	NORTH EAST	313	16.03%	2,64,604	15.40%	11,21,319	15.53%
6	NORTH WEST	297	15.20%	2,96,792	17.27%	12,48,657	17.29%
7	SOUTH	246	12.60%	2,30,141	13.38%	10,10,509	13.99%
8	SOUTH WEST	287	14.70%	2,21,341	12.87%	9,28,014	12.85%
9	WEST	232	11.88%	1,83,538	10.68%	7,58,292	10.50%
Total		1953		17,18,689		72,21,623	

It may be seen from above statement that the highest number of ration card holders were reported during 2024-25 in the North West District, whereas, the highest number of Fair Price Shop were reported in the North East District of Delhi.

3. Entitlement of beneficiaries:

The beneficiaries are entitled to receive food grains under different categories in accordance with the provisions of the NFSA, 2013. The categories wise entitlements of beneficiaries are given in statement 18.3.

STATEMENT 18.3

FOOD GRAINS ENTITLEMENT PER MONTH AND THE RATE

S. No.	Commodity	Category	Quantity	Rate (/ kg)
1	Wheat	AAY	28 Kg/Per Card	Free of Cost
		PHH	4 Kg/Member	
2	Rice	AAY	7 Kg/Per Card	
		PHH	1 Kg/Member	
3	Sugar	AAY	1 Kg/Per Card	

Note: AAY- Antyodaya Anna Yojana, PHH - Priority Household category.
Source: Food, Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, GNCTD

4. The information regarding the quantity of food grains and sugar allotted to Delhi and distribution thereof through the Public Distribution System during 2023-24 and 2024-25 is depicted in statement 18.4

STATEMENT 18.4

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS AND SUGAR THROUGH PDS IN DELHI during 2023-24 & 2024-25

(Quantity in '000 MT)

S. No.	Details	Items					
		Wheat (NFS)		Rice (NFS)		Sugar (Other than NFS)	
		2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
1	Quantity allocated/lifted	303.375	329.827	202.799	219.833	0.730	0.671
2	Quantity distributed	298.079	323.061	197.168	214.871	0.670	0.672
3	Percentage of Quantity Distributed	98.250	97.940	97.220	97.740	92.710	100.160

Source: Food, Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, GNCTD

5. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

The AAY aims to make the Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) more focused on reducing hunger among the poorest segments of the population. The Scheme was launched in December, 2000 for poor families who are unable to get two square meals a day on a sustained basis throughout the year due to extremely low purchasing power. As on 31st March 2025, a total of 66,362 families comprises 2,72,840 members were covered under this scheme in Delhi. At present, the Specified Food Articles (SFAs) are being provided free of cost to beneficiaries.

6. Food Grains at subsidized Rates to Welfare Institutions/Hostel Scheme

As per the Government of India Scheme, Govt. of NCT of Delhi is providing food grains at subsidized rates to destitute people residing in the government owned / run welfare institutions and SC/ST & OBC hostels such as Bal Niketan, Children Home for Girls - I & II, After Care Home for Women, Balika Greh etc. As on 31st March 2025, the Govt. of India has allocated- a monthly quantity of 1.368 MTs of Wheat and 0.420 MTs of Rice to the Govt. of NCT of Delhi under this scheme at the rate of Rs. 4.15/Kg for Wheat and Rs. 5.65/Kg for Rice. Further, allocation has been made for 140 inmates under Welfare Institutions and Hostels Scheme for the 1st half of 2024-25 i.e from April, 2024 to September, 2024.

7. Technology based reforms to TDPS undertaken by NCT of Delhi

(i) E-RATION CARD

The facility of e-Ration Card has been operationalized w.e.f. April 2015. Approximately 21, 23,937 ration cardholders have availed this facility by downloading their ration card online from their respective locations. This initiative has enhanced transparency, convenience and efficiency in the delivery of ration card services to beneficiaries.

8. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

PMGKAY aims to reduce the financial burden of the economically disadvantaged beneficiaries and ensure uniformity in implementation across the States, Central Government has decided to continue providing free food grains to about 8.35 crore beneficiaries comprising Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries for a period of 5 years with effect from 1st January 2024.

Under this scheme, the Govt. of India provides 35 kg of food grains per month (28 kg wheat and 07 kg rice) to AAY households and 5 kg of food grains per month (4 kg wheat and 1 kg rice) to PHH beneficiaries free of

cost. Further, Delhi Government also provides 1 kg sugar free of cost to all Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders.

9. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)

The Govt. of NCT of Delhi implemented ONORC scheme w.e.f. 19.07.2021 through installation of e-POS devices at all Fair Price Shops (FPSs) to enhance transparency & accountability in the operation of Public Distribution System (PDS). Since its implementation, ration is being distributed in Delhi through biometric (Aadhar) based authentication of beneficiaries using e-POS devices. The scheme provides both Intra-State and Inter-State portability of Ration Cards and enables migrant beneficiaries to access PDS benefits under NFSA, 2013. As per Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IMPDS) Portal of GOI, Delhi accounts for the highest number of ONORC transactions constituting around 70% of total transactions across the Nation since implementation of the scheme in Delhi. For grievances and queries related to ONORC/portability of ration cards, a dedicated toll-free no. 14445 has been enabled.

District-wise information regarding number of ration cards issued and beneficiaries who availed ration under ONORC scheme during the financial year 2024-25 are presented in statement 18.5

STATEMENT 18.5

DISTRICT-WISE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM UNDER ONORC SCHEME IN DELHI FOR FY 2024-25 (OTHER THAN DELHI)

S. No.	Districts	Number of Ration Cards	Number of Beneficiaries
1	NEW DELHI	511626	2046504
2	SOUTH	1142699	4570796
3	SOUTH WEST	1155227	4620908
4	EAST	1216659	4866636
5	CENTRAL	575717	2302868
6	NORTH	755144	3020576
7	WEST	832444	3329776
8	NORTH WEST	1752689	7010756
9	NORTH EAST	879103	3516412
Total		8821308	35285232

10. Market Intelligence Cell

- i. The Marketing Intelligence Cell (MIC) of Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, collects the prices of 40 essential commodities on daily basis (including Saturday & Sunday) from three designated retail markets namely Yusuf Sarai (high value), Clock Tower (middle value) and Shahdara (lower value) as well as from one wholesale market at Naya Bazaar. In addition, the wholesale prices of vegetables are also received from APMC, Azadpur. Out of these, retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential commodities (including vegetables) along with retail prices of an additional 18 commodities are reported daily through the online Price Monitoring System (PMS) App to the Price Monitoring Division, Department of Consumer Affairs, Govt. Further, a daily physical report on essential commodities is submitted to the Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of NCT of Delhi. Weekly reports are forwarded to the Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister of Food and Supplies, GNCT of Delhi, and to the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, which also include prices from Kendriya Bhandar. Monthly reports covering the activities of all branches of Department of Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs and the Weights and Measures Department, along with comparative monthly statements of retail and wholesale prices of essential commodities presented graphically, are submitted to the Principal Secretary (Home), Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, GNCT of Delhi, and Officers on Special Duty (OSD) to the Chief Secretary, GNCT of Delhi.
- ii. As per the notification and guidelines of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the stock limits on wheat are monitored through the 'Wheat Stock Management System' a dedicated portal of Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India. Traders, wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers and processors are required to regularly declare their stock positions on the portal. The monitoring is carried out in accordance with to the stock limits prescribed and revised from time to time by the Ministry.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

➤	Delhi was one of the first States to implement the National Food Security Act, 2013 soon after enactment of NFSA, 2013 by Government of India.
➤	Public Distribution network of GNCTD comprising of 1953 Fair Price Shops (FPS) across the Delhi catering to 72.21 lakh beneficiaries through 17.18 lakh digital food security cards as on 31st March 2025.
➤	As on 31st March 2025, total 66,362 families consisting of 2,72,840 members covered under “Antyodaya Anna Yojana” scheme in Delhi.
➤	Govt. of NCT of Delhi is providing food grains at subsidized 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 - I & II, After Care Home for Women, Balika Greh.