

CHAPTER 18

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Delhi was one of pioneer state in implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 w.e.f. 1st Sept., 2013 soon after enactment of NFSA, 2013 by Government of India. Delhi Government has so far issued National Food Security Smart Cards of 19.50 lakh to eligible households covering total beneficiaries of 72.60 lakh for disbursement of food entitlements under National Food Security Act, 2013 after verifications of eligible beneficiaries as on 31st March 2016. Almost all the digital Food Security Cards are Aadhar enabled. The beneficiaries are getting food grains through 2254 Fair Price Shops.

2. The National Food Security Act, 2013 is an important legislation which marked Shift in the right to food as a legal right rather than a general entitlement and gave statutory backing to the Targeted Public Distribution System. In terms of the provision of the Act, the beneficiaries are classified into two categories i.e. Priority category (entitlement), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY; higher entitlement).
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. 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. Delhi Government has put concerted efforts to make the public distribution system to function in an efficient and transparent manner. Govt. of Delhi has taken a number of initiatives like automation and biometric authentication in dispensing food grains through Point of Sale Machines in Fair Price Shops, developing Mobile Applications like Ration Card Portability services, Issuing e-Ration Cards, Sugar Off-take Module for sending SMS to the registered mobile numbers of the beneficiaries for an efficient and transparent PDS. Government has been setting up the State Food Commission for effective and timely redressal of consumer grievances in terms of the provision of NSF Act.
5. The food entitlements to various categories of beneficiaries under Targeted Public Distribution System is as under

Statement 18.1

Food Grain Entitlement of Beneficiaries and the Rate

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

Note: AAY- Antyodaya Anna Yojna, PR- Priority category, PR-S: Priority Category having sugar entitlement (old BPL).

6. 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/- per KG respectively per card per month. Priority household 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.
7. The number of ration cards, fair price shops in Delhi is given in statement 18.2:

Statement 18.2

DETAILS OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DELHI-2001-2016

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	1950	2283	Nil

Delhi has become Kerosene Free City since 2013-14 and there is no licensed shop for Kerosene in the PDS of the Government of NCT of Delhi.

8. 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 19.50 lakh in 2015-16 (31 March 2016) during the post implementation period 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. Mainly due to ceiling of annual income of ` 1 lakh under Priority Group (PR) and eligibility of AAY beneficiaries.
9. The number of fair price shops in Delhi as on 31st march, 2016 was 2283 on an average each fair price shop handles more than 854 ration cards as on 31st March, 2016.
10. 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 2015-16

S.No.	Districts	Ration cards	Per cent	FPS	Percent	Members	Percent
1.	North East	300881	15.42	350	15.33	1162348	16.00
2.	East	183071	9.38	243	10.64	705957	9.72
3.	Central	143468	7.35	164	7.18	505977	6.96
4.	South West	275839	14.13	305	13.35	1008681	13.89
5.	South	231609	11.87	282	12.35	881761	12.14
6.	New Delhi	87221	4.47	138	6.04	318016	4.37
7.	West	221326	11.34	279	12.22	831388	11.45
8.	North West	325870	16.70	321	14.06	1195353	16.46
9.	North	181637	9.31	201	8.80	651345	8.97
	Total	1950922		2283		7260826	

11. It may be observed from Statement 18.3 that the highest number of cards during 2015-16 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 2015-16 is depicted in statement 18.4.

Statement 18.4

DISTRIBUTION OF CEREALS AND SUGAR THROUGH PDS IN DELHI 2014-15 & 2015-16

(In Quintal)

S. No	Details	Items								
		Rice			Wheat			Sugar		
			2014-15	2015-16 (NFS)		2014-15	2015-16 (NFS)		2014-15	2015-16
I	Quantity Allotted									
	OTHER THAN NFS		309340	Nil		957650	Nil		Nil	Nil
	NFS (AAY+PRS+PR)		518040	867624.06		1919040	3334023.49		313200	191172.06
	Total		827380	867624.06		2876690	3334023.49		313200	191172.06
II	Quantity Lifted for Distribution									
	OTHER THAN NFS		231138	Nil		1039003	Nil		Nil	Nil
	NFS (AAY+PRS+PR)		513269	866405.96		1910274	3329177.86		201545	19111.58
	Total		744407	866405.96		2949277	3329177.86		201545	19111.58
III	Percentage Distributed									
	OTHER THAN NFS		74.71	Nil		108.49	Nil		Nil	Nil
	NFS (AAY+PRS+PR)		99.08	99.85		99.54	99.85		64.35	99.9

12. The Government had efficiently distributed the whole quantity of foodgrains allocated under NFS to the various categories of beneficiaries.

13. **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. Total 74,494 families under this scheme.

14. 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. Twenty one such institutions are registered with the Department of Food and Supplies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi under this scheme.

15. KEROSENE FREE CITY – LPG CONNECTION FOR EWS

Government has made Delhi as Kerosene Free City in the year 2012-13. Under this Scheme Govt. of NCT of Delhi had provided 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 was 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 since been discontinued.

16. DELHI STATE FOOD COMMISSION

For better governance of PDS and to redress the grievances of PDS beneficiaries Government of NCT of Delhi is in the process of setting up of State food commission as mandate under National Food Security Act. The Commission will monitor and review of implementation of NFSA in an efficient and transparent manner.

17. SMS ALERTS REGARDING DISPATCH OF RATION TO FPS

An efficient Supply Chain Management is crucial for transparent PDS operations. The Sugar Off take Module has been implemented in Delhi through 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 to card holders registered in the website, as and when sugar is dispatched from sugar godown. Anyone can receive SMS pertaining to any FPS, by registering their mobile number on the link: www.nfs.delhigovt.nic.in and get its entitled sugar.

18. POINT OF SALE DEVICE

A pilot project of Point of Sale (PoS) device at 40 FPS has already been implemented where ration is getting issued after biometric authentication. This is to ensure delivery of ration to actual beneficiaries. This is going to be implemented in all 2254 Fair Price Shops

(FPS) to ensure a transparent and clean public distribution system in Delhi.

19. RATION CARD PORTABILITY

The ration card portability was made operative in a pilot phase in one Assembly Constituency, Delhi Cantt. It gives an option to the consumer to collect ration from any FPS of his choice located in the same constituency. This practice would encourage the FPS owner to provide better consumer service to attract more consumers, as it will provide incentive to the FPS owner, and therefore, motivate him to provide better services. At the same time, consumer would get quality and timely services.

20. e-RATION CARD

Facility of e-ration card has been operationlized w.e.f. April, 2015. About 7, 02,223 ration card holders have availed the benefit by downloading the ration card at their respective places during last two years. This has brought transparency and efficiency in delivering of ration card is genuine.