

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 PDS in Delhi distributes wheat and rice to all food card holders under the NFS Act, 2013 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

Public Distribution network of GNCTD comprising of 1997 Fair Price Shops (FPS) across the Delhi catering to 72.78 lakh beneficiaries through 17.84 lakh digital food security cards as on 31st March 2023. These Food Security Ration Cards are Aadhar enabled. 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 10 Years is given below in statement 18.1

STATEMENT 18.1

DETAILS OF PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN DELHI: 2013-14 to 2022-23

S. No.	Years	No. of Ration Cards (in lakh)	No. of Fair Price Shops (FPS)
1.	2013-14	17.79	2396
2.	2014-15	17.00	2310
3.	2015-16	19.50	2283
4.	2016-17	19.41	2254
5.	2017-18	19.41	2210
6.	2018-19	17.17	2057
7.	2019-20	17.50	2029
8.	2020-21	17.77	2000
9.	2021-22	17.80	2009
10.	2022-23	17.84	1997

Source : Food & Civil Supplies Deptt.,GNCTD

The number of fair price shops in Delhi in March 2023 is 1997 and on an average, each fair price shops has about 894 Ration Cards in March 2023. 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 : 2022-23

S. No.	Districts	No. of FPS	Percent (%)	No. of Ration Cards	Percent (%)	No. of Beneficiaries	Percent (%)
1.	CENTRAL	133	6.66%	135268	7.58%	527134	7.24%
2.	EAST	207	10.37%	163346	9.15%	676065	9.29%
3.	NEW DELHI	96	4.80%	84690	4.75%	339421	4.66%
4.	NORTH	156	7.81%	161057	9.02%	631675	8.68%
5.	NORTH EAST	318	15.93%	277819	15.57%	1167242	16.04%
6.	NORTH WEST	301	15.08%	311156	17.44%	1278580	17.57%
7.	SOUTH	255	12.76%	223223	12.51%	935801	12.86%
8.	SOUTH WEST	294	14.73%	235911	13.22%	945655	12.99%
9.	WEST	237	11.86%	191972	10.76%	776422	10.67%
Total		1997	100 %	1784442	100 %	7277995	100 %

Source : Food & Civil Supplies Deptt.,GNCTD

It can be seen from above Statement that the highest number of card holders were reported during 2022-23 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 PER MONTH AND THE RATE

S. No.	Commodity	Category	Quantity	Rate (in ₹ per kg)
1.	Wheat	AAY	25 Kg/Per Card	2
		PHH	3 Kg/Member	
2.	Rice	AAY	10 Kg/Per Card	3
		PHH	2 Kg/Member	
3.	Sugar	AAY	1 Kg/Per Card	13.50

Note: AAY- Antyodaya Anna Yojana, PHH- Priority Household

Source : Food & Civil Supplies Deptt.,GNCTD

4. The information regarding the quantity of food grains and sugar allotted to Delhi and the distribution of the same through the public distribution system in Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23 is depicted in statement 18.4

STATEMENT 18.4

DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS AND SUGAR THROUGH PDS IN DELHI DURING 2021-22 & 2022-23

(Quantity in '000 MT)

S. No.	Details	Items					
		Wheat (NFS)		Rice (NFS)		Sugar (Other than NFS)	
		2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23
1.	Quantity allocated/lifted	355.73	283.77	92.00	164.94	0.82	0.76
2.	Quantity Distributed	351.60	282.23	90.97	162.63	0.75	0.68
3.	Percentage of Quantity Distributed	98.8	99.45	98.80	98.60	91.5	89.47

Source : Food & Civil Supplies Deptt.,GNCTD

5. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is a step in the direction of making Targeted Public Distribution System (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 35kg of food grains (25 kg wheat and 10 kg rice) per month, wheat @ ₹2/- per kg and rice @ ₹3/- per kg respectively. Under this scheme, 1 kg sugar per household per month @ ₹13.50/- per kg is also being provided to AAY card holders. As on 31st March 2023, total 68,733 families consisting of 2,80,264 members were benefitted under this scheme in Delhi.

However, as on 31st March, 2023, out of total 68674 families about 56700 families were given free of cost food grains and sugar as per entitlement.

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 - I & II, After Care Home for Women, Balika Greh. The foodgrain are made available at subsidized rates to these welfare institutions and hostels as per the allocation received from Government of India.

7. 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 (DSCSC). 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

(ii) e-RATION CARD

Facility of e-ration card has been operationalized w.e.f April 2015. About 18,95,925 Ration Cardholders have availed the benefit by downloading the ration card from their respective places. This has brought transparency and efficient delivery of the facility of ration card to the beneficiaries.

8. PAHAL

- a. PAHAL scheme was 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 15th November 2014.

- b. 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 in March 2023:

Total No. of LPG Consumers	53,34,023
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries (CTC Consumers)	42,10,111
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries seeded with Aadhar ATC (Number)	39,10,811
Total No. of PAHAL beneficiaries seeded with Aadhar ATC (%)	92.89%

Source : Food & Civil Supplies Deptt., ;GNCTD

9. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan AnnaYojana (PMGKAY)

In order to address the food needs of PDS beneficiaries during the pandemic COVID- 19, 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 PMGKAY (Phase-I & II) during April 2020 to November 2020. This scheme was again implemented by Govt. of India from May, 2021 to March, 2022 under PMGKAY (Phase-III, IV & V) wherein only 5kg foodgrains per beneficiary was provided free of cost to all NFS beneficiaries. This scheme was further extended for another 6 months i.e. April-September, 2022 (PMGKAY-VI). However, due to shortage of supply of wheat, GoI has revised the 5 kg foodgrains per beneficiary entitlement from 4kg wheat to 1.25kg wheat and rice from 1kg to 3.75kg under PMGKAY-VI and from May, 2022 onwards GOI has again revised the quantity of foodgrain as previous norms. This scheme was again extended for another 3

months i.e. October-December, 2022 (PMGKAY-VII). During FY 2022-23, 99.3% food grains were distributed to the entitled beneficiaries out of total quantity lifted from Govt. of India.

Govt. of India has provided 5 kg of food grains (4 kg wheat and 1 kg rice) free of cost to all NFS beneficiaries (i.e. 72.78 lakh) under PMGKAY w.e.f. 1st January, 2023 to 31st December, 2023. Further, Delhi Government also provided 1 kg sugar free of cost to all Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders (i.e. 56,700 card holders).

10. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)

Govt. of NCT of Delhi implemented ONORC w.e.f. 19.07.2021 with installation of ePoS devices at all Fair Price Shops for transparency & accountability in the operation of Public Distribution System. Since implementation, ration is being distributed in Delhi through ePoS devices after biometric (Aadhar) authentication of beneficiaries. This scheme provides Intra-State and Inter-State portability of Ration Cards and enables migrant beneficiaries to access PDS benefits under NFS Act, 2013. As per Integrated Management Public Distribution System (IMPDS) Portal of GoI which is for ONORC transactions, Delhi has the highest number of ONORC transactions which is around 70% of the entire Nation's transactions since the implementation of the scheme in Delhi. A dedicated toll free no. 14445 has been enabled for information related to ONORC/ Portability of ration cards.

11. Market Intelligence Cell

- (i) The Marketing Intelligence Cell of Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, collects the rates of 23 essential commodities from three designated retail markets i.e. Yusuf Sarai (high value), Clock Tower (middle value), Shahdara (lower value) and one wholesale market at Naya Bazaar, Khari Babli. It is done through a mobile app to Geo tagging i.e. Price Monitoring System, for reporting the same to Government of India, Hon'ble LG, Hon'ble CM, Hon'ble Minister of Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs, GNCTD and Higher Authorities.
- (ii) Wholesale rates of fruits and vegetables are collected from Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), [i.e. Azadpur Mandi] and tabulated and conveyed to various Govt. Agencies through Daily, Weekly and Monthly reports. For better price monitoring & evaluation, a daily survey rates are taken by the field staff deputed for collecting the rates/prices of 23 essential commodities and also daily & weekly rates from Kendriya Bhandar.

- (iii) As per the guidelines of Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs GOI wherein all the Traders/Wholesaler, Retailer, Big Chain Retailer, Processors who have substantial stock of pulses, edible oil, are required to update their stock position on the portal of GOI. Market Intelligence (MI) Cell regularly monitors the stock position of all these commodities through an online portal.
- (iv) GOI has also launched an online portal for Wheat and Sugar for controlling and monitoring the prices so that these commodities may be made available to the consumers at affordable prices, that is being regularly monitored by F& CS Department. The F&CS Department, GNCTD has no jurisdiction or control over the prices of essential commodities and vegetables.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

➤	Delhi was the first state to implement the National Food Security Act, 2013 w.e.f. 1 st Sept, 2013 soon after enactment of NFS Act, 2013 by Government of India.
➤	Public Distribution network of GNCTD comprising of 1997 Fair Price Shops (FPS) across the Delhi catering to 72.78 lakh beneficiaries through 17.84 lakh digital food security cards as on 31 st March 2023.
➤	As on 31 st March 2023, total 68,733 families consisting of 2,80,264 members were beneficiaries under “Antyodaya Anna Yojana” scheme in Delhi.
➤	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 - I & II, After Care Home for Women, Balika Greh.
➤	During FY 2022-23, 99.3% food grains were distributed to the entitled beneficiaries under the scheme PMGKAY out of total quantity lifted from Govt. of India.