

CHAPTER 19

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

1. The public distribution system (PDS) ensures the distribution of essential items such as selected cereals, sugar and kerosene at subsidized prices to holders of ration cards. The PDS also helps to modulate open - market prices for commodities that are distributed through the system. The Department of Food & Civil Supplies, Govt. of Delhi, manages the PDS in Delhi for regulating supply and distribution and trade and commerce in essential commodities with a view to maintain or increase supplies thereof and secure their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices by enforcing the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and various Control Orders made thereunder.
2. The main items distributed through the PDS are cereals such as rice and wheat and essential items such as sugar (only for below poverty line) and kerosene. There are 3131 PDS outlets in Delhi in March 2004. On an average each Fair Price Shop handles 1,000 ration cards. The number of households in Delhi that have ration cards increased from 26.16 lakh in 1992-93 to 38.67 lakh in 2003-2004.
3. The distribution of ration cards, cereals and sugar units and other relevant data during the last five years is given in statement 19.1. (Time series data on PDS may also be seen in Table 19.1)

Statement 19.1

IMPORTANT INDICATORS OF PDS- DELHI

| S.No. | ITEM | 1992-93 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-04 |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | No. of Cards (in'000') | 2616 | 3689 | 3689 | 3838 | 3867 |
| 2 | No. of Cereal Units (in'000') | 22047 | 33948 | 33900 | 38400 | 39320 |
| 3 | No. of Sugar Units (in'000') | 13075 | 15890 | 15900 | 20300 | 21220 |
| 4 | Fair Price Shop (in number) (i+ii) | 3547 | 3165 | 2975 | 2953 | 3131 |
| (i) | Urban | 3394 | 2818 | 2583 | 2562 | - |
| (ii) | Rural | 153 | 347 | 392 | 391 | - |
| 5. | No. of Licensed Shops of Kerosene Oil | 1931 | 2501 | 2508 | 2521 | 2528 |

4. The quantity of cereals and sugar allotted to Delhi and its distribution through the PDS during 2003-2004 is given in statement 19.2.

Statement 19.2

DISTRIBUTION OF CEREALS IN DELHI 2003-2004 *

(In Qtls.)

| S.No. | Description | Items | | |
|----------|---|---------|----------|--------|
| | | Rice | Wheat | Sugar |
| A | QUANTITY ALLOTTED | | | |
| 1 | Above Poverty Line (APL) | 2823930 | 10709700 | - |
| 2 | Below Poverty Line (BPL) | 452400 | 1131000 | 258017 |
| 3 | Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) | 37061 | 91407 | |
| B | QUANTITY LIFTED FOR DISTRIBUTION | | | - |
| 1 | Above Poverty Line (APL) | 183012 | 3095926 | - |
| 2 | Below Poverty Line (BPL) | 452400 | 1131000 | 129089 |
| 3 | Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) | 37061 | 89106 | |
| C | PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTED | | | |
| 1 | Above Poverty Line (APL) | 6 | 29 | - |
| 2 | Below Poverty Line (BPL) | 100 | 100 | 50 |
| 3 | Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) | 100 | 97 | |

*** PROVISIONAL**

BPL SCHEME

5. The resolve of the Government to reform and improve the PDS by focusing on the poor and needy sections of the society resulted in the launching of the TPDS in 2001. The object is to identify the persons/families living below poverty line (BPL) and issue a distinct ration card for selling specified cereal items through PDS outlets at specially subsidized rates viz. half the normal issue price under PDS. In Delhi families with income of Rs24,200 per year or less were identified as living below poverty line. As per the estimates of Planning Commission of India there were about 4.09 lakh BPL families in Delhi in March, 2000. Under the scheme BPL families are entitled to get 35 kg. Foodgrains per month per family It consists of 25kg. Wheat and 10 kg. Rice for wheat eaters and vice versa for Rice eater @ 4.65 per kg. for wheat and 6.15 per kg. for rice. Under this scheme 4.06 lakh cards have been prepared.

Statement 19.3

Details Of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)

| S.NO. | PARTICULARS | |
|-------|--|-------|
| 1. | Income Limit (Rs. Per Annum) | 24200 |
| 2 | Estimated Number of Persons (in Lakhs) | 20.45 |
| 3. | Number of Household Targeted (in Lakhs) | 4.09 |
| 4. | Number of BPL Ration Cards (In Lakhs) | 4.06 |
| 5. | Quantity of Cereals Supplied Per Household (Kgs/Month) | 35 |

ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJNA

6. 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 foodgrains round the year even at BPL rates. Under the scheme, these families are provided food grains at the scale of 35 kg. per family per month at the rate of Rs.2 for wheat / rice This scheme has been limited to 15.33% of the

lowest segment of BPL families estimated by Planning Commission, Govt of India at 62,600 families on the basis of certain socio- economic factors. Accordingly, 30630 cards were issued to AAY families under this scheme. The Government of India has now raised the ceiling for AAY families from 15 % to 23%. The exercise to identify additional AAY families has been started and more families will be covered under the scheme.

ANNAPURNA SCHEME

7. This scheme envisages supply of food grains (10 kg. per head per month) free of cost to destitute people who are more than 65 years of age and not receiving old age pension from the Govt. The coverage is limited to 20% of the persons eligible for getting benefits under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, and their number is fixed at about 8915 under the scheme. The persons covered under this scheme willnot be considered for old age pension. In spite of wide publicity, only 406 applications were received under this scheme. 183 cards were distributed to eligible beneficiaries. At present there are 170 beneficiaries. Perhaps the main reason for the small number of applications is that in Delhi, already one lakh persons are getting the benefit of pension. These cards were issued free of cost.