

# Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

## **Department of Food and Public Distribution**

The Department of Food and Public Distribution administers and allocates foodgrains to States/UTs under the following two schemes:

### **Welfare Institutions Scheme (5% Of BPL Allocation):**

- Introduced in 2002-03 *to liquidate the stocks of foodgrains.*
- To meet the requirement of Welfare Institutions viz. Charitable Institutions such as beggar homes, nariniketans and other similar welfare institutions not covered under TPDS or under any other Welfare Scheme.
- An additional allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) not exceeding 5% of the BPL allocation is made to States/UTs at BPL prices.
- During the year 2016-17, an allocation of 2.61 lakh tons of foodgrains comprising 2.31 lakh tons of rice and 0.30 lakh tons of wheat has been made under the scheme.

### **SC/ST/OBC Hostels Scheme:**

- This scheme was introduced in October, 1994.
- The residents of the hostels having 2/3<sup>rd</sup> students belonging to SC/ST/OBC are eligible to get 15 kg foodgrains per resident per month at BPL rates, based on the requests received from the State/UT Governments.
- During the year 2016-17, an allocation of 2.40 lakh tons of foodgrains comprising 2.04 lakh tons of rice and 0.36 lakh tons of wheat has been made under the scheme.

However, foodgrains are also allocated by this Department to different nodal Ministries/Departments under Other Welfare Schemes on the basis of requests received from them under the following schemes:

### **Annapurna Scheme:**

- This Scheme is implemented and administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Foodgrains are allocated at BPL rates under this Scheme on the basis of recommendations of Ministry of Rural Development.
- During 2016-17, 0.076 lakh tons of rice was allocated to the Ministry of Rural Development.

### **Mid Day Meal Scheme:**

- This Scheme is implemented and administered by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education & Literacy.
- Foodgrains are allocated at NFSA rates to Department of School Education & Literacy under this Scheme.
- During 2016-17, 27.17 lakh tons of food grains comprising 22.96 lakh tons of rice and 4.21 lakh tons of wheat have been allocated to Ministry of Human Resource Development.

### **Wheat Based Nutrition Programme:**

- This Scheme is implemented and administered by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- Foodgrains are allocated at NFSA rates under this Scheme.
- During 2016-17, 19.85 lakh tons of foodgrains comprising 9.58 lakh tons of rice and 10.27 lakh tons of wheat have been allocated to Ministry of Women & Child Development. Also, a quantity of 24000 tons of maize and 21000 tons of ragi has been allotted under the scheme.

### **Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) – SABLA:**

- This Scheme is implemented and administered by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- Foodgrains are allocated at BPL rates under this scheme.
- During 2016-17, 2.70 lakh tons of foodgrains comprising 1.25 lakh tons of rice and 1.45 lakh tons of wheat have been allocated to Ministry of Women & Child Development. Also, a quantity of 1750 tons of maize and 1100 tons of ragi has been allotted to Government of Tamil Nadu under the scheme.

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As part of modernization of the Public Distribution System, a Scheme on “End-to-End Computerization of TPDS Operations” is being implemented on cost sharing basis with States/UTs at a total projects cost of Rs. 884.07 crore the status of the scheme is as below:

- Digitization of ration cards, under NFSA, completed in all States/UTs.
- Details of 23.19 Cr. RCs are available on transparency portals of respective States/UTs.
- 73.15 % (16.96 Cr.) ration cards seeds with Aadhaar to enable rightful targeting of food subsidies.
- About 2.33 Cr. Ration cards are deleted/ cancelled by 29 States/UTs, during 2013-2016.
- Online allocation of foodgrains and Automation of Supply Chain Management completed in 29 and 20 States/ UTs respectively.
- Online Grievance Registration/ Toll-free helplines (1967/1800-series) set up in all States/ UTs.
- More than 1.78 Lakh Fair Price Shops automated in 22 States. UTs.
- Digital / Cashless transactions enabled in more than 49,000 Fair Price Shops.
- DBT (Cash Transfers) for foodgrains has been implemented in 3 UTs of Chandigarh, Puducherry and partly in Dadra & Nagar Haveli covering 9.02 lakh beneficiaries.

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## **Liquidation of cane price-arrears of cane growers**

- Sustained surplus production over domestic consumption in the past 5 sugar seasons had led to subdued sugar prices, which had stresses the liquidity position of the industry throughout the country leading to build up cane price arrears. Consequently, the peak cane price arrears for 2014-15 sugar season at all India level reached at Rs. 21,837 crore as on 15.4.2015. To mitigate the situation, Government has taken the following measures:

### **Soft Loan 2015 scheme**

- About Rs. 4305.00 crores of loans have been directly remitted into the account of farmers for payment of cane dues on behalf of the sugar mills by the banks.
- The Government has released an amount of Rs. 187.11 cr., during 01.04.2016 to 10.03.2017 (FY 2016-17), to the SBI for subvention of interest on the above loan.
- About 32 lakh farmers have been benefited (2015 & 16).

### **Production subsidy scheme**

- A comprehensive performance based production subsidy has been extended @ Rs. 4.50 per quintal of cane crushed payable to farmers against their cane dues contingent on mills undertaking export and supplying of ethanol.
- As on date Rs. 485 crores have been disbursed under the scheme.

### **Promotion of Ethanol Blending with Petrol Programme (EBP)**

- Facilitated supply of ethanol under EBP programme by fixing remunerative price and waiving off excise duty on supply of ethanol during sugar season 2015-16 (up to 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2016).
- Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) has achieved historical success as supplies of ethanol during the ethanol season 2015-16 have reached record level of more than 110 crore litres which has never been achieved earlier. During 2014-15 and 2013-14 seasons supplies were 68 crore litres and 37 crore litres respectively.
- Due to these measures, 99.3 % of cane dues payments of farmers for 2014-15 sugar season and 99.4 % (on FRP-basis) for 2015-16 sugar season have been cleared already.
- The cane price arrears of 2014-15, which was Rs. 21,837 crore at peak in April, 2015 has currently come down to Rs. 481 crore. Further, as on 28.2.2017, cane price arrear for current sugar season 2016-17 is the lowest as compared to last five years for the corresponding period.

## **Pension Scheme:**

Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for employees of FCI, which was under various stages of examination since the year 2008 has finally been approved by Union Cabinet in its meeting on 10.08.2016. Scheme will be effective from 01.12.2008. Scheme has already been implemented.

## **Post Retirement Medical Scheme:**

Post Retirement Medical Scheme (RPMS) for serving/retired employees of FCI, which was also under various stages of examination since the year 2008 has finally been approved by Union Cabinet in its meeting on 10.08.2016. Scheme will be effective from 01.04.2016. Scheme has already been implemented.

## **Department of Consumer Affairs**

### **1) Price Stabilization Fund**

**Launch Date :** -Transferred to Department of Consumer Affairs from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016.

**Objective :-** Market Intervention to contain the price rise of agri commodities e.g. pulses, onions, tomatoes etc.

**Target Beneficiary:-** Consumers

#### **Physical Targets**

- The domestic production and supply of pulses has constantly fallen short of the domestic demand. To bridge the gap and to stabilise prices of pulses, the Government has decided to create a buffer stock of pulses upto 20 lakh tonnes under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) through both domestic procurement and imports.
- As on 28.02.2017, India has buffer stock of almost 13.2 lakh tonnes of pulses comprising of Chana, Masur, Tur, Urad and Moong. In order to build up this strategic buffer stock of pulses, during the Kharif Marketing Season of 2016-17, the domestic procuring agencies, as on 28.02.2017, have procured 2.14 lakh tonnes of Moong, 4.96 lakh tonnes of Tur and 0.87 lakh tonnes of Urad. The procurement intervention has benefited the farmers by assuring remunerative prices or MSP. Import of 4,01,000 MT of pulses consisting of 1,53,500 MT of Tur, 42,500 MT of Urad; 70,000 MT of Chana; and 1,35,000 MT of Lentils was approved by PSFMC and contracted by MMTC and STC.
- Price reporting centres increased from 89 to 100 to improve the outreach, coverage and data reporting.

## 2) Consumer Protection

**Objective :-** In order to ensure speedy, inexpensive grievance redressal of the Consumers, this Department releases funds to State Governments/ Union Territories to set up Consumer Fora & Consumer Helplines.

### Physical Targets

- So far 628 District Consumer Fora & 36 State Commissions are functional.

### **Following important new initiatives have been launched during the year 2016-17**

1. An integrated consumer awareness and grievance redressal portal <http://consumerhelpline.gov.in> was launched in the month of August, 2016 to disseminate information to consumers and for lodging grievances online with facility to track status on real-time basis. Various stakeholders viz. Consumers, Department of Consumer Affairs, Companies and Regulators are being brought on a single platform to enable effective and speedy redressal. A mobile app “Consumer” was launched in December, 2016 to access this grievance redressal mechanism using smart phones.
2. The Department has launched a mobile app named “Smart Consumer” during December, 2016. This app helps the consumer to scan the bar code printed on any packaged commodity and thereby know the details of the product, company etc. and also to register a complaint.
3. The Department has tied up with a Social Media Network “Local Circles” to provide an electronic platform for consumers to discuss consumer related issues to generate awareness, get feedback and enable policy interventions where required.
4. A microsite has been launched in collaboration with “Google India” to educate consumer on internet and digital safety. FAQs on Internet Safety, Safe Financial Transactions and e-commerce are available in the microsite.
5. A Comprehensive National Building Code taking into accounts the views of all stakeholders in this area has been framed by Bureau of Indian Standards to ensure safe, digitally and differently abled compliant and environment friendly buildings and has been launched on 15.03.2017.