

NOTE ON PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DURING COVID

Operation of Targeted Public Distribution System with special emphasis on Below Poverty Line (BPL), including Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Families is important activity of the Department. During 2020-21 (January, 2020 to December, 2020) 7.95 LMT of food grains was allocated by Govt. of India, under NFSA out of which 7.12 LMT was distributed amongst the beneficiaries.

The Government of Haryana has launched the National Food Security Act, 2013 from 20th August, 2013. The Act classifies the eligible Priority Households (PHs). Antodaya Anna Yojana families will continue to get 35 kg per month per card of food grains in the case of Haryana, per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2.00 per kg. Each member of priority household (BPL+OPH) is getting 5 kg of wheat per month per card at the same rate. The National Food Security Act is a bold initiative to provide food security thereby reducing chronic malnutrition in a substantial manner.

The Department has monitored daily wholesale and retail prices of 25 Essential Commodities and its supply/availability during COVID-19 in the State to prevent hoarding and contain the price rise. Face mask and hand sanitizer have been included under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Inspection of 1897 drugs wholesalers and 13299 chemist shops have been carried out during COVID-19.

Efforts have been made for supply of wheat under Open Market Sales Schemes (OMSS) from FCI to the wholesalers of all districts through Deputy Commissioners. 3646 MT demand of Dal was also received from all the districts, which have been sent to NAFED for supply the same to the wholesalers.

Demand of 2800 MT dal has been sent to Govt. of India for distribution of 1 kg Moong Chilka Dal under PDS to 27 lakh families (AAY+BPL+OPH) free of costs in the month of April, 2020.

All the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) will remain open for long hours for distribution of ECs. There will be no gathering at the FPS and it has been ensured that the distribution is done in staggered manner at FPS by making lines at approximately 1½ metre, where the beneficiaries will stand. The social distance is to be maintained. All the BPL/AAY families have been provided free ration through FPS in the month of April to June, 2020. It was ensured that all the mustard oil mills, atta mills and chakkies and pulses mills remain operational round the clock. Cattle feed plants, cottonseed, Cake factories should also remained functional so that there is no scarcity of animal feed in the State. It was also ensured that supplies of essential commodities to towns and villages should not be interrupted at any cost. All sabji mandi remained open for long hours in such a way that farmers from towns/villages don't feel any restriction and supply their produce to the mandi. The norms of social distances were maintained. The help of Rickshaw pullers was also obtained for distribution of vegetables in the cities to avoid congestion. It was also ensured that the ECs be also supplied to Villages/ towns by utilizing the Haryana Roadways buses as done by DFSC, Ambala and Karnal. All the DCs were also ensured maximum delivery of ECs (vegetable, milk etc.) to doorstep of the public at large by taking the help of volunteer organizations under the supervision of District Sports Officer to avoid gathering in the mandis/markets.

Keeping in view of the Corona Virus (COVID 19) pandemic, the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department distributed essential commodities in PDS basket free of cost during April to June, 2020. Additional wheat under PMGKAY was distributed free of costs to AAY, BPL and OPH @ 5kg per member and 1 kg Sabut chana per family from April to November, 2020. Under Aatam Nirbhar Bharat Scheme of Government of India, 5 kg wheat per member and 1 kg Dal/Sabut Channa per family was provided free of cost to the AAY, BPL and OPH families during May and June, 2020. The Haryana was the first State in the country to implement Aatam Nirbhar Bharat/Distress Ration Token scheme.

Persons having no ration cards and distressed financially were provided 5 kg wheat per person and 1 kg Dal per family under Distress Ration Token scheme. The Department has distributed 4.6 LMT of Wheat (NFSA), 4.5 LMT of wheat-PMGKAY, 7958 MT of DRT wheat, 1.7 LMT of fortified Atta, 18641 MT of Dal-PMGKAY, 483 MT of Dal- DRT/ANB, 24893 KL of mustard oil, 6637 MT of Iodized Salt, 12141 MT of Sugar and 76608 MT of Bajra under PDS during the period from January, 2020 to December, 2020. There are 2,48,704 AAY ration cards, 8,92,645 BPL ration cards and 15,66,535 OPH ration cards in the State having total of 1,22,71,644 beneficiaries. During 1.1.2020 to 31.12.2020, 39 AAY ration cards, 93,245 BPL ration cards and 713 OPH ration cards were added for PDS with additional 3,09,334 beneficiaries.

To eliminate human intervention during ration distribution e-weighing machines have been integrated with e-POS machines in all the FPSs in the 9 districts namely Ambala, Panchkula, Hisar, Yamunanagar, Jind, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Faridabad and Gurugram. Out of these 9 districts the ration is being distributed through e-Weighing machines integrated with e-POS machines in 7 districts. Integration of e-Weighing machines with e-POS machines in districts of Faridabad and Gurugram is in process and will be completed soon. This exercise will soon be completed in the entire State.

One Nation One ration card has also been successfully implemented in state of Haryana. Under One Nation One Ration Card Scheme (ONORC) of Government of India, the beneficiaries of other states can also avail their ration from Haryana and vice versa. With 744 transactions in November 2020 Haryana stood first in the country in number of transactions held under ONORC scheme.

In order to address the issues of malnutrition including Vitamin B 12 deficiency, suffering of people from folate, RBC folate, distribution of Fortified Atta was started in Naraingarh and Barara blocks of Ambala districts from March 2018 on pilot project basis. The scheme was extended in whole Ambala and Karnal districts from February 2019. From the month of October 2019 three

more districts namely Hisar, Yamuna Nagar and Rohtak have been included under the scheme. Presently the Fortified Atta is being distributed in 5 Districts (Ambala, Karnal, Hisar, Rohtak and Yamuna Nagar). The State Govt. is going to extend this scheme in entire the State. This initiative of my Government is a pioneer initiative in the country.

End-to-End Computerization

(a) FPS AUTOMATION:

Automation of FPS was launched in whole of State on 1st November, 2016 by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Under End-to-End Computerization of TPDS Operations, 27,06,101 families/ration cards having 1,22,52,478 beneficiaries under NFSA have been digitized. As on date 26,96,342 (99.7%) ration cards and 1,20,97,230 (98.7%) beneficiaries Aadhaar have been seeded in the PDS database. Not even a single grain is being distributed without biometric authentication through PoS (Point of Sale device). The Haryana has become a role model in the entire country.

As regard with the digitization it is also informed that the department has already gone in for Aadhaar enabled Public Distribution System and the paper ration card is no longer required for availing ration commodities. Similarly for ration cards, hard copies are no longer required to be submitted to the the ration card officers.

Kerosene free Haryana:

On the occasion of Haryana Day Golden Jubilee Celebration on 1st November, 2016, eight districts namely Gurugram, Jhajjar, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala, Yamuna Nagar and Panchkula have been made kerosene free by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The entire Haryana State has been made Kerosene free w.e.f. 01.04.2017.

Government of India has launched Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojna (PMUY) from 1st April, 2016 under which BPL families are provided LPG

connection with a subsidy of Rs. 1600/- per family. The BPL families suffering from any of the seven deprivations in the SECC-2011 list, have been made eligible under PMUY. There are certain families in the State BPL list who do not figure in SECC-2011. State Government has decided to pay them subsidy amount from the State Budget for which provision of Rs. 36 crore has been made under Head “ 90-KEROSENE FREE HARYANA”. 7,30,960 LPG connections have been issued under Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojna (PMUY) from GOI fund and 1,88,304 (including OPH) connections issued from the State Fund so far (total 9,19,264). No Fair Price Shop is being issued the supply of Kerosene Oil since 01-04-2017.

New Ration Cards

At present 2,48,465 (9,99,093 Members) BPL-8,93,108 (40,99,757 members) and OPH-15,64,528 (71,53,628 members) total number of ration cards 27,06,101 and 1,22,52,478 members exist in the state of Haryana. Any beneficiary can apply for any service of ration card through SARAL portal (<http://saralharyana.go.in>) or CSC. E-Disha & Atal Sewa Kendra. No ration card is being made manually. Out of a total census 2011 population of 2,53,00,531, by now about 1,22,52,478 (48.42%) persons are covered under the distribution of subsidized food grains under National Food Security Act (NFSA).

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