



Booklet – 7



Now No One Shall Remain Hungry

National Food Security Act, 2013



A Joint Venture of
National Literacy Mission Authority,
Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India.

&

Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice,
Govt. of India on Legal Literacy
Under Access to Justice (NEJ&K) Project

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Saakshar Bharat Mission was started on September 2009 in India. Under this programme, 410 districts have been included where the female literacy is low. The main focuses of Saakshar Bharat Programme are rural women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the minorities. In this programme besides basic literacy, equivalency programme, skill development programme and continuing education are also emphasised.

To make literacy more interlinked with daily life and interesting to the learners/ beneficiaries, the Interpersonal Media Campaign has been initiated. In this campaign, along with the main subjects of emphasis, legal literacy has also been given due importance.

With the aim of creating awareness of legal literacy in an easy manner among the people, the Legal Literacy materials have been developed in Hindi by National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA), Govt. of India. These materials have been translated into English by State Resource Centre, NEHU, Shillong with the help of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India under the Access to Justice Project for North-East and Jammu & Kashmir (A2J NEJ&K).

The State Resource Centre, NEHU, Shillong is grateful to all the supporting organizations and departments. It is hoped that this material on legal literacy will prove to be useful in bringing legal awareness among the common people.

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साक्षर भारत
SAAKSHAR BHARAT

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LAW (B) DEPARTMENT**

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the Law Department, Govenment of Meghalaya has vetted the Legal Literacy Materials consisting of 11 booklets and 11 folders in English Language. These material are found to be satisfactory and would be of immense use in disseminating legal awareness to the grassroots level in the State.

Date: 28.02.2017

Sangma

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Now No One Shall Remain Hungry

Uncle Showba said to Takam, "Takam, is Lipokba in his right mind today?"

Takam replied, "Why? What happened uncle?"

"He has been telling the whole village that the government will now provide foodgrains to all the poor at affordable prices."



"Oh, really! Has he been saying all these? Then surely he has gone out of his mind. Can this really happen?" asked Takam.

"Come on! Be happy that the government is providing us food at affordable rates. Where is the problem there?" enquired Sangtila.

"Then let's go and ask Prerak Awang of Adult Education Centre" replied uncle.

After reaching the Adult Education Centre, Takam greeted Awang, "*Hello*



brother Awang". Awang greeted and said, "*Hello*. Why is it that all of you have come together to meet me today?

"Brother Awang, we all have come here to enquire about the scheme related to foodgrains which the government has announced."

"Alright. Please take your seats and I shall explain everything about it to all of you."



The government has introduced Food Security Scheme recently. This scheme has been introduced with the aim of providing nutritional and quality food to poor people so that they can live a healthy life."

Thereafter Takam asked, "What are the provisions of this scheme?"

Awang replied, "Through this scheme, people will receive rice, wheat and coarse foodgrains at affordable and reasonable rates."



Sangtila then questioned Awang, "Are there any benefits for women in this scheme?"

Awang nodded and answered, "Yes, women will also be benefited through this scheme. Pregnant and lactating women will receive special nutritional support. Even women who are the head of the family shall receive special privilege. As per the scheme, women will be considered to be the head of the family and the ration card will be issued in their names."

"Alright, where can we obtain this card from?" Takam asked.

At this, Awang replied, "This card can be obtained from the Village Council or from the office of the Food Department."

"Where will the foodgrains be available?" Uncle questioned.

Awang said, "The foodgrains will be available through Government Fair Price Shops."

"What will be the quantity of foodgrains that we all will be receiving?" Menang wondered.

Awang then replied to her question, "Each family shall receive 35 kilograms of foodgrains."

After knowing about the scheme, uncle was quite happy and contented and said, "Thank you Awang, for providing us these vital and valuable information. From now on, no one in our village will be left hungry."

Sangtila agreed with uncle's statement and happily remarked, "You are very right, uncle Showba!"

Important Points of The National Food Security Act, 2013

- ★ An Act to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach,

by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people, to live a life with dignity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- ★ The related provisions and mechanism for providing food and nutritional security to common men of this country are laid down in the Act, which are as follows:
- ★ **Fair Price Shops:** "Fair price shop" means a shop which has been licensed to distribute essential commodities by an order issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to the ration card holders under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- ★ **Foodgrains:** "Foodgrains" means rice, wheat and coarse grains or any combination thereof conforming to such quality norms as may be determined, by order, by the Central Government from time to time.

- ★ **Food Security:** “Food Security” means the supply of the entitled quantity of foodgrains and meals as per the laws/bye laws under the Act.
- ★ **Food Security Allowance:** “Food Security Allowance” means the amount of money to be paid by the concerned State Government to the entitled persons under Section – 8.
- ★ **Rural Area:** “Rural Area” means any area in a State except those areas covered by any urban local body or a cantonment board established or constituted under any law for the time being in force.
- ★ **Targeted Public Distribution System:** “Targeted Public Distribution System” means the system for distribution of essential commodities to the ration card holders through fair price shops.

Section/Rules

- ★ **Section – 3** provides the right to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices from the State Government under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- ★ **Section – 4, 5 and 6** provides the provisions relating to providing food to pregnant and lactating women and nutritional support to children and malnutrition prevention.
- ★ **Section – 12** relates to reforms in Targeted Public Distribution System.
- ★ **Section – 13** relates to provisions regarding issue of ration cards to women of eighteen years of age or above to be the head of the household.

Legal Provisions

- ★ Nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women.

- ★ As per the Act, entitled persons have the right to receive food security allowances in the case of non-supply of the entitled quantities of foodgrains or meals.

Rights

- ★ According to Targeted Public Distribution System, priority households to be covered under '*Antyodaya Anna Yojana*' shall receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month at subsidised prices.
- ★ Every pregnant and lactating mothers are eligible to receive the following benefits:
- ★ During pregnancy and six months after the child birth through local *anganwadi*, meals, free of cost will be provided so as to meet the nutritional standards. Children below the age of six months, exclusive breast feeding shall be promoted.
- ★ Pregnant women are entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than

Rs. 6,000 in instalments as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

- ★ For children up to class 8 or within the age group of six to fourteen years, to meet the nutritional standards, the following rights will be available:
- ★ For children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, age appropriate meals will be provided free of charge to meet the nutritional standards.
- ★ For children below the age of six months, exclusive breast feeding shall be promoted.
- ★ The State Government shall, through established *anganwadi*, identify and provide meals, free of charge, to children who suffer from malnutrition.

Authority

According to Targeted Public Distribution System of the Essential Commodities Act,

1955, Fair Price Shops will be provided licence to distribute commodities to the ration card holders under Public Distribution System.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism

- ★ Every State Government shall put in place an internal grievance redressal mechanism which may include call centres, help lines, designation of nodal officers, or such other mechanism as may be prescribed.
- ★ The State Government shall appoint or designate, for each district, an officer to be the District Grievance Redressal Officer for expeditious and effective redressal of grievances of the aggrieved persons in matters relating to distribution of entitled foodgrains or meals and to enforce the entitlements under this Act.
- ★ According to this Act, there is a provision that any complainant can file an appeal

with the District/ State Food Commission.

Powers relating to inquiries of State Food Commission

The State Food Commission, while inquiring into any matter, will have all the powers of a Civil Court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and, in particular, in respect of the following matters:

- ★ Summon and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath.
- ★ Discovery and production of any documents.
- ★ Receiving evidence on affidavits.
- ★ Requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office.

- ★ Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.
- ★ Every State Government shall constitute a State Food Commission for the purpose of monitoring and review of implementation of this Act.

Penalties

Any public servant or authority found guilty by the State Commission at the time of deciding any complaint or appeal, of failing to provide the relief recommended by the district grievance redressal officer, without reasonable cause or wilfully ignoring such recommendation, shall be liable to penalty not exceeding ₹ 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only).
