

File No.5 (3)/2017-PD-III
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Food and Public Distribution

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 18 Feb, 2018

To
The Principal Secretary/Secretary,
Food and Civil Supply Department,
[All States/UTs]

Subject: Ensuring supply of foodgrains through PDS to every eligible beneficiary.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and inform that several reform measures have been undertaken to bring about greater efficiency and transparency in the functioning of Public Distribution System since the inception of National Food Security Act, 2013. The main objective of the reform measures has been to ensure assured regular supply of the foodgrains to all the beneficiaries as per their entitlement under the Act in a smooth and hassle-free manner.

2. However, some media reports appearing recently, suggest that some of the beneficiaries experience difficulty in getting their entitled quantum of subsidized foodgrains because of their inability to visit the Fair Price Shop for reasons such as old age, physical disability etc.

3. The matter of distribution of entitled quantity of foodgrains to such beneficiaries has been under the consideration of Government of India. After careful examination of the matter, it is proposed to put in place the **following special dispensation for such beneficiaries:**

(a) NFSA beneficiary(ies), who are above sixty five years of age, or who are differently-abled, and have no other adult family member (16 to 65 years) listed in the Ration card, and are not in a position to visit the Fair Price Shop themselves, would be **eligible to be covered under the special dispensation.**

(b) State/UT Government may consider adopting any of the two approaches mentioned below to ensure regular supply of foodgrains to beneficiaries under such special dispensation:

(i) Home delivery of the entitled quota of foodgrains: State may devise the procedure for supply of foodgrains at the doorstep of such beneficiaries without adding any additional cost to the beneficiaries. A few states like Odisha have adopted this mode for distribution of foodgrains.

(ii) Delivery through authorized nominees of such beneficiaries: Such beneficiaries should apply for special dispensation to the authority issuing ration cards along with details and Aadhaar number of their nominee for receiving the entitled foodgrains on their behalf. Such nominee must fulfill following conditions:

- The nominee must be a NFSA beneficiary tagged to the same FPS.
- Foodgrains should be issued to the nominee only after proper authentication/ Identification as in case of any other NFSA beneficiary.
- FPS dealer or his/her family members cannot be authorized as a nominee.

(iii) After approval, the nominee may be added in the ration card of such beneficiary and would be entitled to receive the ration of such beneficiary on his/her behalf.

(iv) Vigilance Committee(s) may also be advised to identify and recommend such beneficiaries to be covered under special dispensation to the concerned District Supply Officer.

4. State/UT Governments may consider adopting the above mentioned special dispensation with modification, if any, to ensure timely supply of foodgrains under NFSA to such identified beneficiaries.

Yours faithfully,



(D.K. Gupta)

Director (PD)

Tel: - 23070429