



Department of Food and
Public Distribution
Government of India
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Message

**Sh. Ram Vilas Paswan,
Minister of CA, F&PD**

India runs the world's largest public distribution operations catering to the needs of crores of people. Every year over 60 million tonnes of foodgrains flows through the system, and reaches citizens even in the farthest corners of the country at a fair price. Despite the huge strides forward made in this sector, we cannot sit back on these successes and need to keep improving our performance. We must introduce innovations to ensure minimum wastage and maximum coverage of the needy. It is important for us to share these experiences to ensure that the best solutions available are known to all and the same experiments are not repeated in the interest of time resource management.

The enormity and complexity of this task requires close co-operation and co-ordination of all States/UTs, Central Government offices with railways and other organizations. Technology is today being used extensively in many States/UTs and the results have been very encouraging. Biometric and Smart Cards enable correct identification of beneficiaries, public portals provide details of stocks delivered to FPSs, grievance redressal, SMS alerts etc. Technology is helping us bring transparency, accountability and cost benefits like never before. On the other hand, delivery of foodgrains at the door-step of FPSs by the Government agencies have also proved useful.

It gives me great pleasure to bring to you the very first edition of this newsletter from the Department of Food and Public Distribution that showcases such examples and solutions to help us all improve hand in hand.

I wish the endeavour my best wishes and hope this tradition of sharing continues.

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Food Security in India - Issues & Challenges

By Shri Nilambuj Sharan, DFPD, GOI

The definition of food security has evolved over a period of time. As a concept, food security originated in the mid-1970s, in the wake of global food crisis. The initial focus of attention was assuring the availability and to some degree the price stability of basic foodstuffs at the international and national level. This was then broadened to incorporate the demand side of food security in early eighties. During the nineties, issues such food safety, nutrition, dietary needs and food preferences were also considered important ingredients of food security. In FAO report on 'The State of Food Insecurity, 2001', food security is defined as a " --- situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".

In the Indian context, the underpinnings for food security of the people can be found in the Constitution, though there is no explicit provision on right to food. The fundamental right to life enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution has been interpreted by the Supreme Court and National Human Rights Commission to include right to live with human dignity, which includes the right to food and other basic necessities. Under Directive Principles of State Policy, it is provided under Article 47 that that the State shall regard raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.

Providing food security has been focus of the Government's planning and policy. Food security means availability of sufficient foodgrains to meet the domestic demand as well as access, at the individual level, to adequate quantities of food at affordable prices. Attainment of self-sufficiency in foodgrains production at the national level has been one of the major achievements of the country. In order to address the issue of food security at the household level, Government is implementing the Targeted Public Distribution System under which subsidised foodgrains are provided to eligible households through a network of fair price shops spread throughout the country.

To further strengthen the efforts to address the food security of the people, the Government has enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013. It marks a paradigm shift in approach to food security – from a welfare to rights based approach. The Act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System. About two thirds of the population therefore will be covered under the Act to receive highly subsidised foodgrains. There is a special focus in the Act on nutritional support to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age by entitling them to nutritious meals. Pregnant women will also be entitled to receive cash maternity benefit of Rs. 6, 000 in order to partly compensate her for the wage loss during the period of pregnancy and also to supplement nutrition. Keeping in view the important role that women play in ensuring food security of the family, the Act contains an important provision for women empowerment by giving status of head of the household to the eldest woman of the household, for the purpose of issuing of ration cards.

Based on the provisions of the Act, the requirement of foodgrains for TPDS and other welfare schemes is estimated to be 614.4 lakh tons. The estimated food subsidy for implementation of the Act at 2014-15 costs, is about Rs. 1,31,086 crore, which implies additionality of about 27,000 crores due to implementation of NFSA.

The National Food Security Act, 2013 provided for a period of one year after the commencement of the Act, i.e. upto 04.07.2014, for identification of eligible households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). So far, 11 States/UTs viz., Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have informed their readiness to implement the Act. Accordingly, foodgrains under the Act are being allotted to them. In remaining 25 States/UTs, allocation under existing TPDS is continuing.

As identification of eligible households had not been done and implementation of the Act was yet

to start in these States/UTs on completion of one year period provided in the Act, time period for identification of eligible households and completion of other preparatory measures for implementation of the Act had to be extended thrice - first by three months, then by six months and now upto 30th September, 2015.

Level of preparedness in 25 States/UTs where the Act is yet to be implemented varies across States/UTs. Besides identification of eligible households to be covered, preparedness would also include necessary strengthening of TPDS so as to ensure effective and timely delivery of entitlements under the Act. Aspects which need focused attention of State Governments and UT Administration relate to beneficiary identification in a fair and transparent manner so as to avoid errors on inclusion and exclusion, delivery of foodgrains upto door-steps of fair price shops, computerisation of TPDS operations, strengthening of the mechanism of Vigilance Committees at various levels and effective grievance redressal mechanism. Such reforms measures are crucial

to ensure a leakage and diversion free PDS and also to ensure that no needy person is denied benefits.



Salient features of the Act

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| <p>(i) Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS): Upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population will be covered under TPDS, with uniform entitlement of 5 kg per person per month. However, since Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households constitute poorest of the poor, and are presently entitled to 35 kg per household p.m., entitlement of existing AAY households will be protected at 35 kg per household p.m.</p> <p>(ii) State-wise coverage: Corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas respectively, State-wise coverage will be determined by the Central Government. State-wise coverage has been determined by the Planning Commission on the basis of 2011-12 NSSO Household Consumption Expenditure Survey data.</p> <p>(iii) Subsidised prices under TPDS and their revision: Foodgrains under TPDS will be made available at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains for a period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act. Thereafter prices will be suitably linked to Minimum Support Price (MSP).</p> <p>(iv) In case, any State's allocation on percentage and entitlement under the Act is lower than their current allocation, it will be protected upto the level of average offtake during last three years under normal TPDS, at prices to be determined by the Central Government. Existing prices for APL households i.e. Rs. 6.10 per kg for wheat and Rs 8.30 per kg for rice has been determined as issue prices for the additional allocation to protect the average offtake.</p> <p>(v) Identification of Households: Within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the work of identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs.</p> <p>(vi) Nutritional Support to women and children: Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group</p> | <p>of 6 months to 14 years will be entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes. Higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.</p> <p>(vii) Maternity Benefit: Pregnant women and lactating mothers will also be entitled receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 as per scheme to be formulated by the Central Government.</p> <p>(viii) Women Empowerment: Eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above will be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards.</p> <p>(ix) Grievance Redressal Mechanism: Grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels. States will have the flexibility to use the existing machinery or set up separate mechanism.</p> <p>(x) Cost of intra-State transportation & handling of foodgrains and FPS Dealers' margin: Central Government will provide assistance to States in meeting the expenditure incurred by them on transportation of foodgrains within the State, its handling and FPS dealers' margin as per norms to be devised for this purpose.</p> <p>(xi) Transparency and Accountability: Provisions have been made for disclosure of records relating to PDS, social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees in order to ensure transparency and accountability.</p> <p>(xii) Food Security Allowance: Provision for food security allowance to entitled beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.</p> <p>(xiii) Penalty: Provision for penalty on public servant or authority, to be imposed by the State Food Commission, in case of failure to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer.</p> |
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Aamar Dukan—an initiative By Govt of Assam

The past experience of Public Distribution system (PDS) has shown that mostly the Fair Price Shops (FPS) cannot be financially viable only by sale of PDS items, viz. foodgrains, sugar. The FPSs, do have scope in terms of time and space to accommodate transactions of non-PDS items at price lower than MRP. Therefore, with a view to address viability of FPS and thereby strengthen the Public Distribution System, Government of Assam decided to introduce non-PDS items so that these shops are attractive to appeal the consumers. The idea was that both the PDS retailers as well as general consumers will be benefitted with access to basket of essential commodities at less price.

The Pilot

During the Rongali Bihu festival last April 2010, a pilot scheme was introduced in 638 FPS of Guwahati city under the jurisdiction of Kamrup Metropolitan District in a participatory and experimental mode. The Scheme, involved elimination of intermediary agencies and required that the Distributors, Stockists and Wholesalers would issue adequate quantities of selected commodities on the basis of demand, at their landing cost plus minimum profit to the FPS. The issue price at both levels was determined under a mutual agreement between the Distributors / Stockists / Wholesaler and the FPS, which was much below the printed MRP based on the landing cost and minimal profit. The FPSs were allowed to add Rs. 2 only per kg/litre as profit and transportation. The items selected items in addition to the PDS items are commonly used in normal households, i.e. Mustard oil, refined oil, soya oil, tea packets, packed Atta, packaged iodised salt, branded rice, potatoes, onions, sugar, pulses, (masur dal), common rice. The additional products were mostly MRP based fast moving consumer goods (FMCG). All FPS displayed the prefixed prices on the display boards located in front of the shops. The prices that were agreed and prefixed both at the Distributors / Stockists / Wholesalers level and the retail FP shop level were made stable for one month upto the conclusion of Bihu Festival. The prices of the commodities agreed upon to be transacted by the FPS were widely publicized through the print and electronic media. The Govt acted only as a catalyst and there were no fund implications on the State exchequer.

The scheme has encompassed 2841 shops so far.

Future Plans

Considering the success of the scheme, the Govt of Assam has decided to embark upon the scheme throughout the State. The features envisaged are:-

- 1) The State target for the scheme is 10,000 shops in all 27 districts of the state
- 2) The scheme has a brand name of "AAMAR DUKAN" and a logo of "Jago Grahak Jago" as publicized by the Govt of India
- 3) MoUs are prepared by the Deputy Commissioner / Principal Secretary of Councils / Subdivisional officers (civil) upon mutual agreement and signed by the Distributors, Stockists and Wholesalers on one part and the FP shops in the other part for assured supply of selected commodities in terms of quality and quantity, and also the period for which the prices at both levels will remain valid until next review. Change in prices before next review can only be downward.
- 4) The FPS will create a sustainable platform so that, as a single entity, their bargaining power in the market enhances.
- 5) The criteria for selection of FPS will be based on population density, FPS density and the credibility and reputation of the FPS showing willingness to participate.
- 6) The performance of the FPS are reviewed fortnightly by the Deputy Commissioner / Principal Secretary of Councils for sadar sub-divisions and the Sub-divisional officer for the mofussil sub-divisions.



The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Secretary (Food and Public Distribution) during a conference of State Food Secretaries at New Delhi

- 7) The Distributors / Stockists / Wholesalers are benefited by getting bulk customers through the scheme which result in lesser cost to the Ration card holder/ Customers without disturbing the existing Distributors / Stockists / Wholesalers margin.
- 8) The prices of commodities to be agreed upon for transactions by the Distributors / Stockists / Wholesalers and the selected Fair Price Shops are widely publicized through the print and electronic media.
- 9) The Government acts as a catalyst and there are no fund implications on the State exchequer.
- 10) Separate records such as stock register, sales day register, voucher file, return file, cash book, cash memos etc are maintained in the FP shops under the scheme for the PDS and non-PDS items.
- 11) Compliance and enforcement are done through the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affair Department field officers, who will have powers of inspection, search and seizure under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and the Control orders issued thereunder.

Best practices in reforming Public Distribution System

- Initiatives of Chhattisgarh

Government of Chhattisgarh has taken many initiatives during the last 4 years to improve the performance of public distribution system in the State. The initiatives/reforms include both technical and non-technical with the single objective of creating food security to 37 Lakh BPL families without diversion and leakage in a transparent way. As a part of these reforms Chhattisgarh has computerized the whole food grain supply chain from procurement to lifting of PDS commodities to FPS with the help of National Informatics Centre. Technology has been effectively used in the system to address some of the prevalent problems in public distribution. The initiatives are now giving encouraging results towards achieving the envisioned objective. Government of India is kind enough to evaluate the system at different occasions and rank the practices as best practices.

As the objectives and problems are almost similar in public distribution of every State, it is thought that the practical experience can be shared through this document so that the same can be replicated by other States. Some of such practices are briefly described here. How a practice can address a known problem is also mentioned. Pre-requisites for implementing the practices and challenges faced are also documented against each practice.

The key Initiatives based on Information and Communication Technology include:

A) ICT Initiatives

1) **Unified Ration Card Database** - In April 2007 the State decided to make a unified computerized database of ration cards. These ration cards have two unique identifiers - a numeric code and a bar code printed on the ration card. All the details including the name of the head of the family, caste, address, entitlements, ration shop etc. are all printed on the card from the database, and every family gets a custom made ration card. The maintenance of the ration card database is now done through a web-based module. Using the data, a view is created containing number of cards in each FPS for each type/Scheme.

The software has fully integrated modules covering all allocations, warehousing, transportation, sock arrivals, dispatches, monitoring, etc.

2) **Automated Allotment Calculation for PDS schemes** - With 37 Lakh beneficiary details on server and their mapping to the 10427 FPS, it is now

possible to calculate allotment of all 10427 FPS from State Directorate within one hour by just entering per card parameters for different commodities. An authorized person uses a web based application to enter per card parameters and releases the shop-wise allotments.

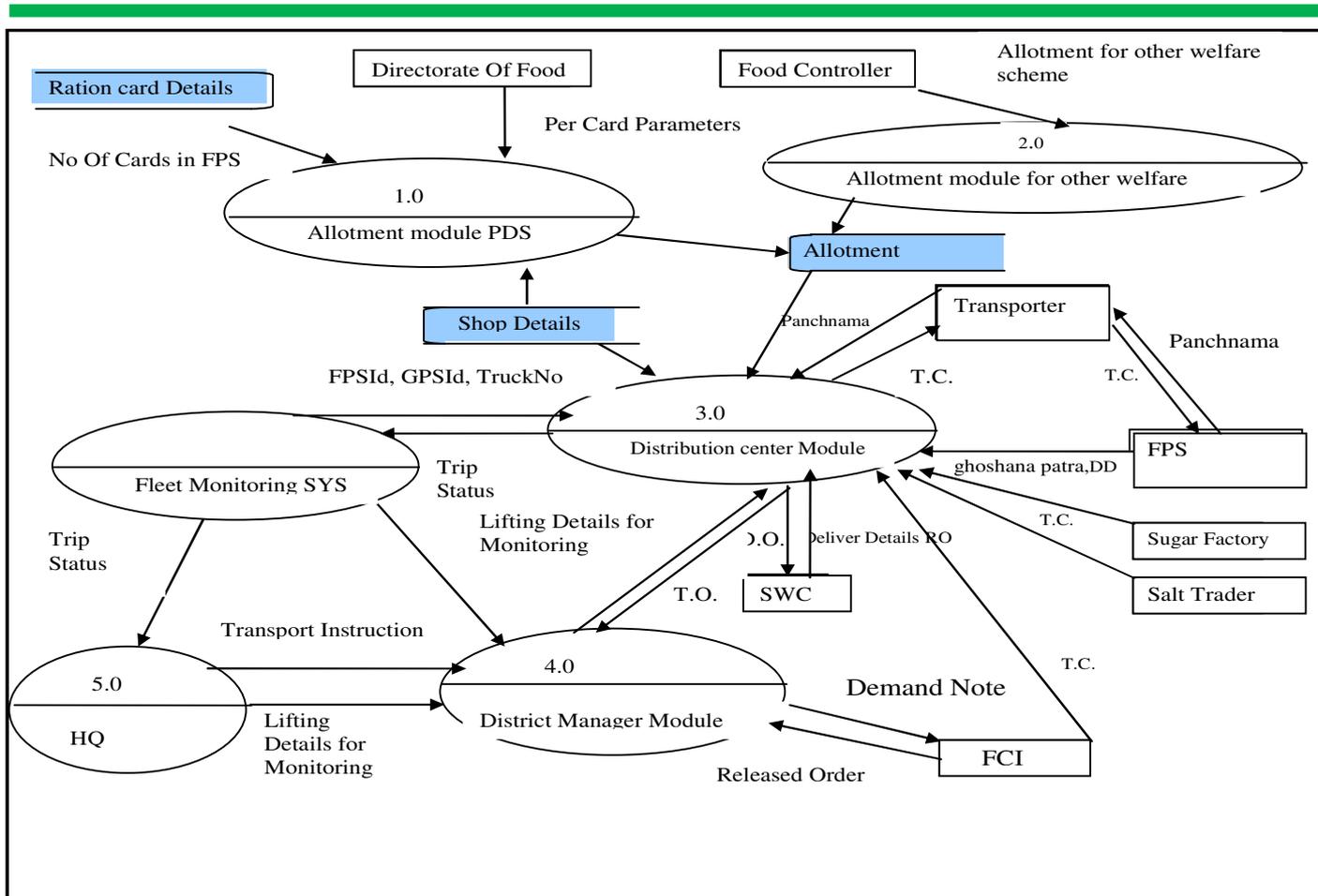
3) **Monthly submission of FPS sales details by declaration** - Each FPS is now required to give a declaration stating sales of the previous month. The details are entered in computer, which automatically calculates the balance quantities at FPS. The system allows giving delivery of the [allotment - balance] quantity only. It checks building of excess stocks at FPS.

4) **Web-based software module for CGSCSC Distribution Centre** - A web-based software takes care of all operations at Distribution Centre to receive PDS commodities from different sources and issue to FPS, including issue, transportation and stock positions.

5) **Truck Photograph to replace Gate pass** - Using technology, the gate pass is augmented by including truck photograph with latitude and longitude of the place where the photograph is taken and the information sent to the server by the application using GPRS service. Server side program compares the latitude and longitude of truck with latitude and longitude of the warehouse to ensure that the truck is in the warehouse premises at the said date and time. The system is under pilot implementation in Chhattisgarh.

6) **Inter warehouse truck transport information through SMS** - Whenever a truck is dispatched from a warehouse to any other warehouse, SMSs are automatically sent to both the District Managers (source and destination) giving the details about the transport. If receipt of the truck is not recorded within 3 days after dispatch, an alert SMS is automatically sent to General Managers of Civil Supplies Corporation for further necessary action.

7) **Truck Dispatch Information through SMS to registered users** - Citizens can register their mobile numbers on this web-site for participation in the monitoring of PDS by selecting one or more FPSs. Whenever PDS commodities are dispatched to an FPS from the warehouse, an SMS is sent to all the mobile numbers registered for that FPS.



8) Citizen Interface

A citizen's website interface has also been created. The URL of the website is <http://www.cg.nic.in/citizen>. This website was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh on 21st January 2008. The citizen's website interface covers all information that can be accessed by the public on the farmer/procurement front and the beneficiary/PDS supply front as well as provision to register and monitor complaints. It also allows the public to participate in the monitoring of the PDS.

9) Call Centre and Complaint Monitoring System -

A call centre with a toll free number 1-800-233-3663 has been operational since 21st January 2008. Citizens can dial the toll free number and register a complaint or give a suggestion. Call centre also provides information on various schemes implemented by the Department.

10) Transparency by hosting majority of the reports generated by the system on web in public domain

Below listed details are available for public scrutiny on the Citizen Interface web site for full transparency.

- ◆ Ration Card holders' details.
- ◆ Village-wise, ward-wise or FPS-wise details of individual ration card holders along with his name, father's name and type of ration card.
- ◆ Fair price shop details
- ◆ FPS-wise allotment details
- ◆ FPS-wise lifting details.
- ◆ FPS-wise Sales details.
- ◆ Details of 'RICE FESTIVAL'
- ◆ Details of rice procurement-CMR and levy
- ◆ Details of complaint lodged and its status.

11) Performance of District Food Controllers and District Collectors -

As all the operations involved in PDS in Chhattisgarh are being done on computers it has been possible to calculate performance indicators of District Food Controllers and District Managers of CGSCSC automatically by the system. All the district officers' performance are ranked and displayed publicly on web. Orders have been issued to consider performance in PDS while writing ACR of district collectors.

B) Non-ICT Initiatives

- 12) **Rice Festival** – On a fixed, pre announced day in a month, PDS commodities are distributed in the presence of public and nominated government officials, including a Vigilance Committee member, who monitor the process and weight/price charged etc.. Other benefits to BPL families like old age pension etc. are also extended on this day along with PDS commodities. 40% of the total beneficiaries in the State are taking their entitlement on the Rice Festival day though the shops are open on all days. This practice has increased transparency and community participation.
 - 13) **De-privatization of Fair Price Shops** - New Control Order on Private FPS was issued on 23rd December, 2004. All 2,872 FPS run by private shopkeepers were given to Gram Panchayats, Co-operative societies, Self Help Groups, Forest Protection Bodies and urban local bodies. The change improved the situation of PDS in Chhattisgarh.
 - 14) **Strengthening of PDS infrastructure** - Chhattisgarh has strengthened PDS infrastructure by constructing 2500 shop-cum-godowns and creating 10,000 KL storage capacity for kerosene. The funds were managed under different schemes.
 - 15) **Economic Viability of Fair Price Shop** - When FPS is not economically viable, it is forced to adopt corrupt practices to sustain. Hence it is essential to ensure the shops with average number of ration cards are economically viable and get a minimum profit margin of Rs. 2000 - 3000 per month. Chhattisgarh has taken the following steps to improve the economic viability of FPS:
 - a) State Government has provided Rs. 42 crores (@ 75,000 per shop- 20 Year interest free) as seed capital to Gram Panchayats and SHGs for running FPS.
 - b) Commission on FPS food grains revised from Rs. 8 per quintal to Rs. 30 per quintal.
 - c) One month credit facility or loss compensation to FPS.
 - d) FPS are allowed to sell non-PDS commodities.
 - 16) **Door-step Delivery** – Chhattisgarh has eliminated all agencies that focused only on a part of the supply chain since they increased the cost, chances of diversion and added to delay in lifting. Now the CGSCSC is responsible for ensuring that PDS commodities reach the door steps of FPS by its own transport as per the allocation released by Department of Food. FPS operating agency weighs the commodities being received at FPS and gives a receipt (Panchnama) signed by at least 5 people from the village. This practice is known as Door Step Delivery.
 - 17) **Colouring of the trucks carrying PDS commodities in yellow** - Chhattisgarh has issued orders to transport the PDS commodities in trucks coloured in YELLOW so that transparency is increased. Strict monitoring is done to ensure that the order is followed throughout the state.
- NIC - the ICT Partner** - NIC, Chhattisgarh State Centre is the ICT partner in the PDS computerization. NIC and Government of Chhattisgarh are ready to share their experience and technology with other States in implementing similar system for public distribution. Duplication and re-invention are the two common extravagancies in the current ICT scenario. One can avoid these two by horizontal transfer of technology and experience from one place where an ICT project is successfully implemented to other parts of the country. NIC, being Central Government organization with its offices at all States and Union Territories, has ability to transfer the technology and experience throughout the country with not much effort

Implementation of TPDS in Madhya Pradesh – An IT supported initiative

As per provisions of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), TPDS operation is being implemented in the State of Madhya Pradesh since 1st March, 2014. The beneficiary population that can be covered in the State under NFSA is 5.46 crore which is 75% of total population and which will cover approximately 125 lakh families. With the help of online identification, verification, categorization of beneficiaries and generation of e-ration cards, 5.09 crore beneficiaries (115 lakh families), which is over 92% of the total targeted population, has been identified and are receiving subsidized food grains. Considering this figure is estimated to grow to about 125 lakh families, it has become essential that current PDS system is made more effective with increased usage of Information Technology.

SAMAGRA (All-Inclusive) platform has been designed and developed in MP with the aim to streamline processes, enable ICT based implementation of individual and family oriented schemes and to facilitate proactive and entitlement approach for governance. It has an integrated database of all 13 million families and residents of the State and facilitates implementation of various mechanisms through verification and maintenance of the database by all concerned authorities / Departments in a collaborative environment.

A unique **SAMAGRA** Family ID has been provided to each family/resident. The system facilitates listing of all due entitlements and displays the list of beneficiaries and service providers in public domain. Identification, verification and categorization of all families / residents of State, being done by their respective local bodies online, has eliminated the need for the beneficiaries to approach a centralized government office. Households found to be eligible for benefit under any of the designated categories are getting linked to their respective fair price shops electronically and their e-ration card is being generated from the system. The e-ration card is now dynamic and will get updated every month as per any change in the family category and number of members. The system has allowed authentic and accurate monthly FPS shop-wise allocations of food grains with a single click.

The Portal (food.mp.gov.in) and online work-flow based system has facilitated a common platform for residents, local bodies, PDS officials, SDOs labor department and others. It has ensured the identification of over 92% of target population and providing them the entitlement slips which depict their monthly allocated entitlements, thus ensuring the effective and transparent implementation of

targeted public distribution system.

Each eligible household has been mapped with a Fair Price Shop within the portal and the data is available in real-time for the beneficiaries to find out the associated FPS along with the address of the FPS in order to obtain the ration. It is possible for each beneficiary family to generate their own ration cards online using the portal every month, download the ration cards and carry the cards to their associated FPS shops and obtain ration as per their allocation. Each and every family is provided an opportunity for raising objections. Families / residents can download and print monthly entitlement slips that indicate their respective allocation, FPS and the amount to be paid

Since over 92% of the beneficiary population has been mapped and verified with a SAMAGRA ID on the portal, food department created accurate online monthly food allocation based upon the population (in line with NFSA guidelines) using the database maintained within the portal, thereby reaching to the poorest of the poor beneficiaries as well as other priority households.

Cost Effectiveness of the Project:

This project is a fully-funded government initiative being conducted under the auspices of Government of India's 12th 5-Year Plan. It is a State Mission Mode Project under the National e-governance Plan and the entire funding has been received from the Central and State Government in the 60:40 ratio. Therefore, there is no burden on the actual beneficiaries with regard to utilizing the benefits of the project. All the facilities including generation of online entitlement slips, obtaining grievance redressal and services available via transparency portal are available without any charge to the beneficiaries.



News Snippets

- ⇒ Status of implementation of National Food Security Act, (NFSA) in States/UTs was reviewed in the Conferences of State Food Secretaries held on 3rd & 10th December, 2014 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble MOS and Hon'ble Minister of CA, F&PD respectively. The 11 States/UTs who have started implementation were asked to improve the implementation and complete end-to-end computerisation by February, 2015. The remaining States/UTs which are yet to implement the NFSA were asked to ensure implementation by March, 2015.
- ⇒ India hosted the 7th SAARC Food Bank Board (SFB) on 10th -11th November, 2014 in New Delhi. All SAARC Member States except Afghanistan attended the meeting. Besides, officers from SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu and SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka also attended the meeting.
- ⇒ An Indian delegation comprising of Shri Deepak Kumar, Joint Secretary, Shri Vimalendra Sharan, Minister (Agriculture) in the Embassy of India at Rome, and Shri Nilambuj Sharan, Director attended the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security at Rome, held on 13th – 18th October, 2014.
- ⇒ Online procurement monitoring system (OPMS):-The Government of India has launched online procurement monitoring system (OPMS) for both Kharif Marketing Season and Rabi Marketing Season at revenue district level all over the country. As online procurement monitoring system (OPMS) is in its primary stage, changes could be incorporated in the scheme as and when required for its proper functioning. A Committee of officers from FCI has been constituted, for monitoring of PMS/entries/updation by the FCI regions, on a day-to-day basis and pursue with the concerned regions for both KMS and RMS.
- ⇒ A High Level Committee (HLC) was set up under the chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar, MP and former Union Food Minister consisting of distinguished panel of experienced persons and experts to recommend on restructuring of FCI after considering various aspects of present structure and functional areas of the organization and consulting various stake holders within a period of 3 months.

The HLC has submitted its report to PMO on 21.01.2015 which is under consideration of FCI / Department of Food & Public Distribution .

All articles in this issue have been edited for easy reading.

Complete articles can be accessed at www.dfpd.nic.in/newsletter/nw01