

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Schemes**National Food Security Act, 2013**

- It aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately 2/3rd of India's population i.e 75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas will be covered under TPDS, with uniform entitlement of 5 kg/person/month.
- It converts the various existing food security schemes into legal entitlements (i.e.) from welfare based approach to **rights based approach**.
- It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, ICDS scheme, the PDS and also recognizes maternity entitlements.
- Under NFSA, each beneficiaries is entitled to 5 kilograms of food grains per month at Rs. 3 ,Rs. 2 , Rs. 1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively. It has been decided by the Government to continue the above mentioned subsidized prices up to June, 2019.
- Thereafter prices will be as fixed by the Central Government from time to time, not exceeding MSP.
- However, the beneficiaries under Antyodaya Anna Yojana will keep receiving the 35 kg/household/month at same rates.
- NFSA also guarantees age appropriate meal, free of charge through local anganwadi for children up to 6 months and one free meal for children in age group 6-14 years in schools.
- Every pregnant and lactating mother is entitled to a free meal at the local anganwadi as well as maternity benefits of Rs.6,000, in installments.
- These maternal benefits are not extended to Government employees, since other similar benefits are provided.
- The identification of eligible households is left to state governments.
- It also has provisions for food security allowance to entitled beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains/meals.

Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme

- The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW).
- The PSF scheme was later transferred from DAC&FW to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA) in 2016.
- The fund is to help regulate the price volatility of important **agri-horticultural commodities** like onion, and potatoes. Pulses were also added subsequently.
- The scheme provides for maintaining a strategic buffer of aforementioned commodities for subsequent calibrated release to moderate price volatility and discourages hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.
- For building such stock, the scheme promotes direct purchase from farmers/farmers' association at farm gate/Mandi.
- The PSF is utilized for granting interest free advance of working capital to Central Agencies, State/UT Governments/Agencies to undertake market intervention operations.
- Apart from domestic procurement from farmers/wholesale mandis, import may also be undertaken with support from the Fund.
- The agricultural ministry has recently proposed to include Milk in the PSF which is not yet confirmed.

Jago Grahak Jago

- It is a country wide multimedia awareness campaign on various issues related to consumer rights and responsibilities across diverse subjects.
- The programme is launched jointly in partnership with the related government departments.

Consumer protection Act

- It provides consumers with speedy and inexpensive redressal grievances mechanism and specific relief or award of compensation.
- It recognizes six of the eight rights of the consumer as provided in the UN charter.
- It envisages rights of consumers such as Right to Protection, Right of Information, Right of Choice, Right of Hearing, Right of Redressal and Right of Education.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- The scheme aims to make Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) more focused and targeted towards the poorest section of population.
- Beneficiary families under the scheme are distributed 35 kg of rice and wheat at the rates of Rs. 3 per kg and Rs. 2 per kg respectively. Coarse grains, on the other hand, are distributed at the rate of Rs. 1 per kg.
- Other families that are not part of AAY but are covered under NFSA receive grains at the rate of Rs. 5 per kg.
- Under the scheme, subsidies are fully borne by the central government and States/UT bears the distribution cost.
- The scheme has been expanded to cover 2.50 Cr households and scale of issue has been increased to 35 kg/family/month.

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