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INNOVATIVE SCHEME

MUKHYO MANTRIR ANNA SURAKSHA YOJANA, 2010

Guidelines

1. Objective

Under the Public Distribution System Targeted Public Distribution System, the beneficiary families are categorized into three - Above poverty line (APL), Below poverty line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). Subsidized foodgrains are provided under PDS as per Govt of India norms.

Out of a total population of 2.66 crores as per 2001 census, now projected to be around 3.00 crores, on the basis of an assumed growth rate of 18.85 %, the Public Distribution System covers about 60 lakhs families.

Out of 19.06 lakhs families identified by the Govt of India in the State as living below the poverty line, 7.04 lakhs poorest of the poor BPL families are benefited under the AAY scheme under which, they are provided 35 kgs of rice per month at Rs 3.00 per kg, upon production of AAY cards at FZ shop. The balance 12.02 lakhs BPL families are provided 32,946 kgs of rice per month per family at Rs 6.67 per kg against BPL cards. The APL cardholders get 4 to 5 kg of rice per family at Rs 9.50 a kg.

TPDS was introduced in 1973 to ensure that 95% of the population have been provided at specially subsidized rates. At that time, 100 lakhs families living below the poverty line. Identification of the families was done on the poverty estimates of 1995-94 by the Planning Commission and the population estimates of 2000 by the Registrar General, Govt of India. Since then, with the increase in the number of family members in the BPL category and resultant nuclear families, a significant number of such families remain deprived from the benefits of BPL schemes.

Further, considering the impact of natural calamities that affect a vulnerable section of the population of the State from year to year and also their backward economic condition, a huge segment of poor families qualify for inclusion in the BPL category, but for the Govt of India norms, remain deprived from the BPL scheme benefits. Food inflation has further compounded their woes by adversely affecting their purchasing power. These people are therefore in the APL category by compulsion and without choice.

To bring such uncovered poor families of the lowest strata of APL into the ambit of food security, a new scheme called 'MUKHYO MANTRIR ANNA SURAKSHA YOJANA' for economically backward families is proposed to be implemented from 15th August 2010.

The scheme will be implemented by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department through PDS network.

2. Target group and norms

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- (1) The Deputy Commissioners of the Plains Districts and the Principal Secretaries of the Autonomous Councils will be responsible for effective implementation of the scheme in their respective Districts including the Civil Subdivisions.
 - (2) The scheme is envisaged to cover 2,00,000 families amongst the poorest and most economically backward of the APL families, who qualify for BPL but due to Govt of India norms they have been deprived from BPL benefits.
 - (3) They must hold valid APL cards as on the date of implementation of the scheme. However, the selection committee will also consider the most economically backward of other left out families, who qualify for BPL but due to Govt of India norms they have been deprived from BPL benefits, by recording reasons/justification in each case.
 - (4) 10 kgs of subsidized rice at the rate of Rs 6 per kg will be provided to each identified family.
 - (5) The rice will be of Grade A variety.
 - (6) These families will be provided separate Family identity cards of a different colour. The new category of cards will be handed over to each identified and selected beneficiary family including those from the lowest strata of the APL category who possess APL cards.
 - (7) The selection of beneficiaries in rural areas will be done by a Block level Committee consisting of the following:
 - i. Chairman- Block Development officer of the area.
 - ii. Members-Three, consisting of one PRI member and two social workers of whom one shall be a woman. They will be notified by the Government.The Block Development Officer will be the convener of the Committee.
 - (8) In urban areas selection of beneficiaries will be done by a Committee consisting of the following:
 - a. Chairman- Local Revenue Circle officer.
 - b. Member- Three, consisting of one ward Commissioner/Member, two Social Workers of whom one shall be a woman, they will be notified by the Government.
 - (9) The selection of beneficiaries will be done by the Selection Committee in consultation with Gram Sabhas, by associating PRIs. The Selection will be done GPSS/WCCS/LAMPs wise.
 - (10) In case of the occurrence of any natural calamities, or for reasons beyond control, that prevents the convening of Gram Sabha in any location, or in case of any dispute or indecision in the Gram Sabha level meeting in the selection of the intended beneficiaries, the decision of the Selection Committee constituted as per Govt decision would be final.

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- (11) Income criteria of existing BPL card holders should be the basis for selection of beneficiaries
 - (12) Wide publicity shall be made before selecting the beneficiaries
 - (13) All intended beneficiaries will submit application in the prescribed format used for PDS/TPDS
 - (14) While selecting beneficiaries, the Selection Committee will consider the most economically backward of the APL and other families, who qualify for BPL but due to Govt of India norms, they have been deprived from BPL benefits.
 - (15) Utmost caution will have to be exercised amongst citizens, in selecting genuine poorest of the poor families left out of BPL families. No existing BPL/AAY families should find place in the beneficiary lists
 - (16) In cases where local bodies in rural or urban areas are not in existence, the Deputy Commissioner / Principal Secretary shall evolve a suitable mechanism for identification of beneficiaries in an impartial and objective manner.
 - (17) The scheme will be adequately publicized to invite applications from eligible APL category beneficiaries. Applications will be made in prescribed format used for PDS/TPDS
 - (18) The beneficiary list will be sent to the Deputy Commissioners/ SDOs for scrutiny and approval, record and allotment of the rice on a monthly basis to GPSS/WCCS/LAMPs etc and FPs
 - (19) Where the Assembly Constituency which falls in more than one District, the District Administration of the respective District will divide the number of beneficiaries depending on the proportionate area and population falling within the respective Districts, in consultation with the Minister in charge of the respective Districts.
 - (20) The Districtwise targets for the number of beneficiaries shall be calculated by the Deputy Commissioners / Principal Secretaries of Councils for their respective Districts, on the basis of 10,000 beneficiary families per Legislative Assembly Constituency within three days of receipt of these guidelines and inform Govt of Assam. Uniformity will be maintained GPSS/WCCS/LAMPs etc wise.
 - (21) To overcome the financial constraints of the GPSS/WCCS/LAMPs for lifting the rice from FCI, soft loans upto a limit of Rs. 500 lakhs will be afforded by the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank for which interest subsidy will be arranged by the Cooperation Deptt.
 - (22) Deputy Commissioners / Principal Secretaries of Councils will communicate the Districtwise number of beneficiaries to the Director F, CS and CA for printing of cards and forms, allotment of rice etc. The list will also be kept for their record and sub-allocation of rice.
 - (23) The distribution of rice will be done through the PDS network.
 - (24) Separate records such as stock register, sales day register, voucher file, return file, cash book, cash memos etc will be maintained in the FP shops under the scheme.

- (25) Compliance and enforcement will be done through the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department field officers, who will have powers of inspection, search and seizure under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and Control orders thereunder.
- (26) Priority in the identification of beneficiaries and implementation will be accorded to the Old/ infirm physically handicapped, widows, landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans - craftsmen such as potters, tappers, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters etc in rural areas and slum dwellers, persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, handcart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, etc. in the urban areas. The above criteria is indicative and not exhaustive within the people living below poverty line.
- (27) Priority in the identification of beneficiaries and implementation will also be accorded to poor families living in areas perennially affected by natural calamities like floods, erosion, and remoteness/backwardness/ inaccessibility.
- (28) Special care and caution will be exercised by the Beneficiary Identification Committees so that no existing BPL/AAY families find place in the beneficiary lists. To ensure selection of the genuine beneficiaries, the inclusion and exclusion guidelines of the Govt should be duly complied with. Salaried Government and PSU personnel, Govt pension holders, those owning motorized vehicles, land holders other than small and marginal category, Businessmen/entrepreneurs/ industrialists and shopkeepers owning PDS and trade licences, all who pay Income tax etc should be excluded. On the other hand, Old age pensioners, beneficiaries of Randhanjyoti /Annapurna /CDS/Health benefit and other poverty alleviation schemes, erosion affected rehabilitated families not having sustainable income, NREGA beneficiaries who do not possess EI cards etc should be included in the beneficiary list upon application if otherwise found eligible.
- (29) The scheme will be implemented initially for eight months ie from August 2010 to March 2011 (initial phase)
- (30) The rice required under the scheme will be provided by the Food Corporation of India from its nearest FSD. The required rice will be lifted on the basis of monthly allotment orders as per requirement and target by the GPSS/WCCS/LAMPS. The Distribution amongst beneficiary families will be done through the PDS network ie FP shops, agents etc.
- (31) The monthly allotment of rice will be made and communicated by the Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs to the Deputy Commissioners and Principal Secretaries, who in turn will make sub- allocations to the GPSS/WCCS/LAMPS etc for distribution amongst the beneficiaries through the FP shops, Agents etc.
- (32) The Deputy Commissioners / Principal Secretaries will issue the **Special Family Identity Cards** to the eligible identified families.
- (33) The benefit of 10 kg rice to each beneficiary family will not however affect the entitlement of rice to the family under the present APL scheme benefits.

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- (34) The monitoring will be done by the existing Vigilance and Monitoring Committees for PDS/TPDS items at the FP shop / Agent levels, GPSS/ WCCS/LAMPs level - Subdivisional level and District level at regular intervals.
- (35) The monthly returns, for fair price shops involved in the scheme, their allocation and offtake, for GPSS/WCCS/LAMPs, and issue /elimination of cards to beneficiaries will be submitted to the Deputy Commissioners / SDOs/ Principal Secretaries of Councils in the same formats as contained in the guidelines for PDS/TPDS

3. Pricing structure of rice under the scheme

Cost to be paid to FCI by subwholeseller (GPSS/WCCS/ LAMPs)	Maximum Transportation charges considered as reasonable which will be subsequently reimbursed (Rs per kg)	Profit of sub-wholesaler (3.10%) (Rs)	Profit margin of retailer /FP shop (6.29%) (Rs)	Per kg cost (Rs)
Rs 5.47		0.17	0.36	6.00
N.B. The entitlement of transportation between FCI to GPSS and GPSS to FP shops may be taken approximately as 70:30				

(A) Issue price at Sub-wholeseller level – per quintal

- I. Ex-FCI price of rice - Rs 547.00
- II. Admissible profit margin - Rs 17.00
- III. Actual transportation -
cost and other incidentals (to be reimbursed with a maximum limit of Rs 100 per quintal)
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- Ex- sub-wholesale price Rs

(B) Issue price at Retail level – per kg

- I. Ex- sub-wholesale price of rice Rs 5.64
- II. Admissible profit margin - Rs 0.36
- III. Actual transportation -
cost and other incidentals (to be reimbursed with a maximum limit of Rs 100 per quintal)
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- End consumer price Rs 6.00

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Action calendar for implementation of "Mukhya Mantrir Anna Suraksha Yojana
2010"

- (1) Deputy Commissioners /Principal Secretaries of Councils shall communicate the beneficiary lists to the F,CS & CA Deptt, Govt of Assam Constituency wise, GPSS wise and Fair Price shop wise latest by 5th July 2010.
- (2) Deputy Commissioners will hold District level meetings with all stakeholders including CEOs of ZPs/Revenue Circle Officers / BDOs/ PRIs and the notified Social Workers to discuss and evolve modalities to complete the selection of beneficiaries and other related works within 5th July without fail.
- (3) At the next stage, as per directions of the Deputy Commissioners / Principal Secretaries of Councils ,Revenue Circle Officers for urban areas and BDOs for rural areas will hold meetings with all stakeholders including the notified Social Workers to discuss and evolve modalities to complete the selection of beneficiaries and other related works within 5th July without fail
- (4) At both levels of meetings, a suitable common date should be fixed for holding of Special Gaon Sabhas throughout the District, to select beneficiaries as per parameters fixed for selection.
- (5) The lists so prepared and forwarded by respective Revenue Circle Officers / BDOs would be scrutinized, finalized and compiled GPSS / WCCS/LAMPs wise and FP shopwise by the Deputy Commissioners / Principal Secretaries of Councils. A copy of the same may be sent to the F,CS & CA Deptt, Govt of Assam immediately thereafter.
- (6) The master copy of the selection list for the entire District would be kept by the Deputy Commissioners/ Principal Secretaries of Councils and they shall start preparing beneficiary FI cards on 6th July and complete the same by 15th of July 2010.
- (7) The printed FI cards would be delivered by the Govt of Assam through the Director of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs , which may be collected by Deputy Commissioners/ Principal Secretaries of Councils 5th July 2010.
- (8) The cost of the Special FI cards will be realized from the selected beneficiary families and deposited in the Treasury in due course.
