

Public Distribution System in Rajasthan

Shiv Dayal Singh*, Anant Phagna**, Gulraj Kohli***

Abstract

Public Distribution System (PDS) was established with the object to ensure food security primarily to the poor section of the society. The performance of PDS in Rajasthan reveal that it is performing well in terms of allocation and lifting but the other irregularities has reduce it's impact on poor. This needs to be checked.

Keywords: PDS; Distribution; BPL.

Introduction

The PDS in India has objective to provide essential consumer goods at cheap and subsidized price to the consumers so as to insulate them from the impact of rising prices of these commodities and maintain nutritional status of our population. To achieve the objective, government has established a network of Fair Price Shops (FPS) from where PDS items like rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and certain Non-PDS items are distributed at prices determined by government.

PDS in Rajasthan

About quarter of Rajasthan population is Below Poverty Line (BPL), 29.4 percent, 2009-10, moreover due to it's demographic pattern and distinctive geographic terrain the population is scattered in far off places with only 10 – 15 families living in small hamlets and the PDS beneficiaries have to cover up to 30 km to reach a FPS. In the rural areas, due

to drought and desert like conditions people lead a hard life. Their problems get accentuated in some area including desert and hilly terrain, particularly in southern Rajasthan which is deficient in rainfall and face frequent drought like conditions? This situation directly affects the production of crops at such places. The obvious result of this situation is increased dependency on PDS which is the only channel for providing food security to people, particularly, in such areas. The PDS commodities currently being distributed by the government of Rajasthan are Levy Sugar, Fortified Atta, Wheat, Rice and Kerosene Oil. In addition to these PDS items Non – PDS items like Iodized Wash Salt and Tea is also distributed through state PDS network. The state is using Above Poverty Line

Table 1: Monthly Allocation for BPL

	Commodity	Price (Rs.)	Quantity (Per Month)
BPL/State BPL	Wheat	2.00	25 Kg per ration card
	Rice	6.50	
	Levy Sugar	13.50	300 gm per ration card
	Kerosene	13.75	2.5 liters per ration card
	Atta	6.20	10 Kg per ration card

*Source: Rajasthan State Food & Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. Government of Rajasthan.

Author's affiliation: *Associate Professor, **Research Scholar, Dept. of Economics, ***Professor, Dept. of Food Science and Nutrition, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India.

Corresponding Author: Gulraj Kohli, Professor, Dept. of Food Science and Nutrition, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer, Rajasthan, India.

E-mail: gulrajkk@rediffmail.com