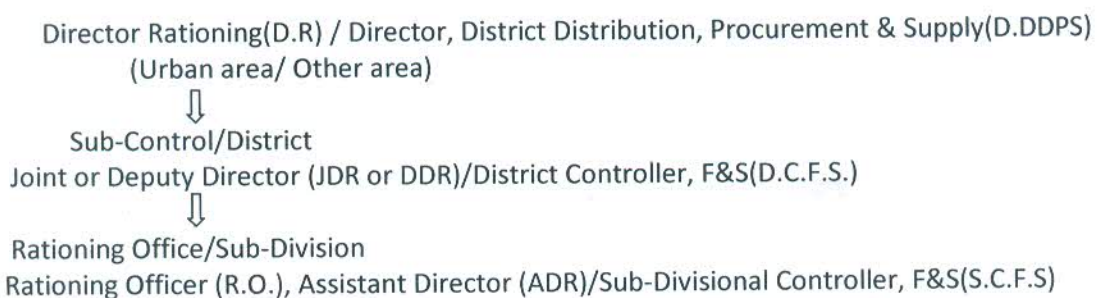


PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM NETWORK IN WEST BENGAL – AN OVERVIEW.

1. Public Distribution System(PDS) :
It means a system for distribution of public distribution commodities and certain other specified articles of daily use to the holders of valid ration documents through the Fair Price Shops.
2. Objective: To provide food security to the people, particularly, the poor and vulnerable sections of the society.
3. The Acts/Rules which guide the Public Distribution System(PDS) :
 - a) The Essential Commodities Act,1955,
 - b) The West Bengal Urban Public Distribution System(Maintenance and Control) Order,2013,
 - c) The West Bengal Public Distribution System(Maintenance and Control) Order,2013,
 - d) The National Food Security Act, 2013.
4. Demarcation of areas of the State for the purpose of operation of Public Distribution System :-

For maintaining supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System, the State of West Bengal has been divided into two separate broad areas.

- a) The urban areas and certain other areas which are urban in nature as specified in Schedule A of the West Bengal Urban Public Distribution System (Maintenance and Control) Order, 2013. It includes areas, viz, (i) Kolkata South , (ii)Kolkata North, (iii) Howrah (Mainly, Howrah Municipal Corporation and Bally-Belur Municipality area , and partly ,some adjacent Anchal Panchayat areas) , (iv) Barrackpore (16 Municipalities, Barrackpore Cantonment Board and Ichapur Defence Estate, Bidhannagar Municipality, Portion of South Dumdum and Rajarhat Gopalpur Municipality, (v) Asansol (Specified wards of Asansol Municipai Corporation,Kulti Municipality and Durgapur Municipality and entire protected area of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works) and (vi)Hooghly (entire areas of 10 municiplalities starting from Uttarpara-Kotrang to Bansberia).
 - b) The areas , other than above, of the State of West Bengal ,where the West Bengal Public Distribution System (Maintenance and Control) Order, 2013 is applicable.
5. Organisational set up for administration of Public Distribution System in West Bengal.



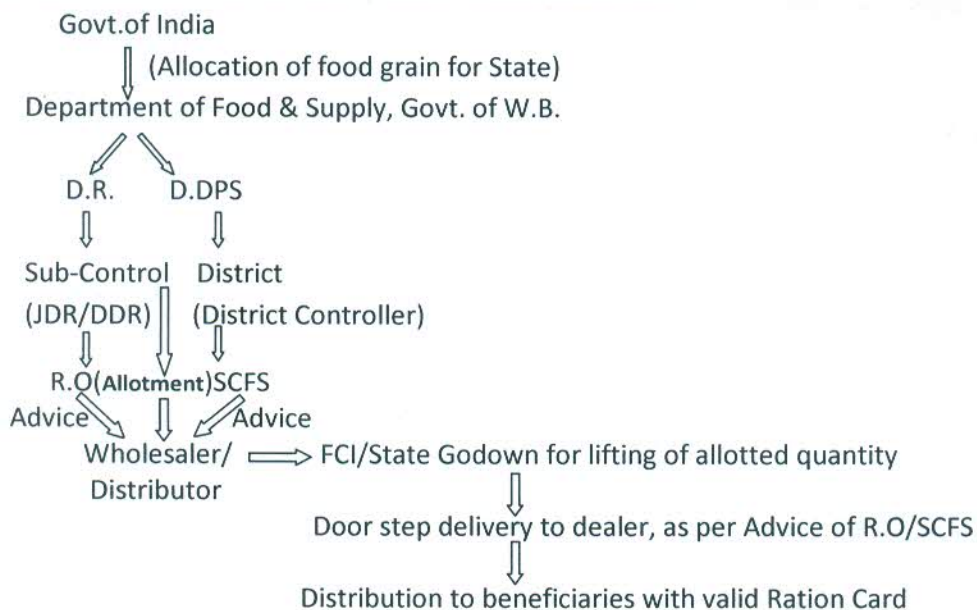
6. Classification of beneficiaries, as per scheme of Public Distribution System continued up to 31.01.2016 :
- a) "Above Poverty Line Families " means those families who have been issued Above Poverty Line (APL) ration cards by the Department of Food & supplies, Government of west Bengal, for issue of public distribution commodities and certain other specified items of daily use under the Public Distribution System.
 - b) "Below Poverty Line Families " means those families who have been identified as such by the concerned authority under the Government of West Bengal and to whom BPL Ration Cards have been issued for distribution of public distribution commodities under BPL Scheme along with other specified items of daily use under the Public Distribution System.
 - c) "Antodaya(AAY) Families" means those poorest families amongst the Below Poverty Line Families, who have been identified as such by the concerned authority under the Government of West Bengal and to whom Antodaya Anna Yojana Ration Cards have been issued for distribution of public distribution commodities under Antodaya Anna Yojana Scheme along with other specified items of daily use, under the Public Distribution System.
 - d) "Annapurna Beneficiaries" mean persons identified as such by the concerned authority under the Government of West Bengal and to whom Annapurna Ration Cards have been issued for distribution of food grains of specified quantity on monthly basis under the Annapurna Scheme.
 - **But after implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 in the State with effect from 01.02.2016 , the classification of beneficiaries has changed as under ,as per provision of the said Act :-**
 - a) Households under Antodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) and (b) Priority Households(PHH) including Priority Households with Sugar(SPHH)
7. Ration Document: It means a valid Ration Card including a family Ration Card, or a Ration Permit.
8. Entitlement of Ration Card/Ration Permit: As per provision of the Control Orders mentioned above :-
- a) Every bonafide citizen of India or every family having resided ordinarily in any areas mentioned under the aforesaid Control Orders and having no Ration Cards anywhere, shall be entitled to have Ration Card to be issued or cause to be issued by the Rationing Officer/Sub-Divisional controller.
- However, under the National Food Security Act, the selected beneficiaries under the three categories, viz,(i) Antodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) , (ii) Priority Households(PHH) and (iii) Priority Households with Sugar(SPHH) are eligible to get Ration Cards. Moreover, the State Government has introduced Rajya Khadya Suraksha Yojana (RKSJ) with effect from 01.02,2016 and the beneficiaries selected under this scheme are also eligible to get Ration Cards of two categories, viz, RKSJ-I and RKSJ-II.
- b) An individual having the Ration Card in his/her name shall be entitled to draw public distribution commodities and certain other specified articles of daily use under

Public Distribution System from a Fair Price Shop as specified on weekly/fortnightly basis on production of valid Ration Card.

In terms of Notification No.70-FS/Sectt/Food/4m-18/2015 dt.07.01.2016, a ration card holder has the option of lifting his allotted quota of food grains for current week, for current week along with the quota of the following week in advance, and in case he fails to lift his quota of food grains for any week or weeks within a period of eight weeks, he has the option of lifting such un-lifted quota of food grains while lifting food grains in any week within such period.

- c) Any bonafide establishment, such as, hospitals, sanatoriums, orphanages, educational institutions etc. and non profit making establishment of like nature, situated in any of the areas within the State and having need of any public distribution commodity for its own consumption may apply for a Ration Permit.
9. "Fair Price Shop" means a shop licensed under any of the mentioned Control Orders for distribution of public distribution commodities and certain other specified articles of daily use under Public Distribution System.
10. "Dealer" or "Fair Price Shop Owner" means and includes a Self Help Group or registered co-operative societies or semi-government bodies or a person/association of persons in whose name a shop has been licensed to distribute public distribution commodities and certain specified articles of daily use under Public Distribution System.
11. "Wholesaler"/"Distributor" means a person and includes a co-operative society or a company or a Self Help Group or an association of persons as has been licensed to distribute public distribution commodities to those dealers as may be specified by the licensing authority under the provision of Control Order and certain specified articles of daily use under Public Distribution System.
12. Engagement of "Dealer" for urban area :a) Proposal for new vacancy will be initiated by Rationing Officer,
 - b) With the approval of Govt., Director, Rationing will notify the vacancy and invite applications to be submitted to concerned office of Joint/Deputy Director of Rationing,
 - c) Enquiry to be done by Rationing Officer to be forwarded to a committee set up by Director, Rationing,
 - d) Findings of the committee will be placed before the Director, Rationing who will form his opinion and place the case before Govt. for selection of a candidate,
 - e) The final decision of the Govt. will be communicated to the concerned Joint/Deputy Director of Rationing of respective Sub-Control for subsequent issue of offer letter and licence by Rationing Officer concerned.In case of engagement of "Dealer" for areas other than the urban areas, S.C.F.S will forward the proposal to D.DDPS through D.C.F.S. On approval by Govt. the vacancy will be notified in Notice Board and widely circulated news paper. The offers received will be forwarded to D.DDPS for approval and the S.C.F.S will engage the dealer, as approved.

13. Engagement of "wholesaler: a) Proposal for new vacancy will be initiated by Joint/Deputy Director of Rationing in charge of a Sub-Control ,
- f) With the approval of Govt., Director, Rationing will notify the vacancy and invite applications to be submitted to concerned office of Joint/Deputy Director of Rationing,
 - g) Enquiry to be done by an Officer not below the rank of Assistant Director of Rationing to be forwarded to a committee set up by Director, Rationing,
 - h) Findings of the committee will be placed before the Director, Rationing who will form his opinion and place the case before Govt. for selection of a candidate,
 - i) The final decision of the Govt. will be communicated to the concerned Joint/Deputy Director of Rationing of respective Sub-Control for subsequent issue of offer letter and licence by Joint/Deputy Director of Rationing concerned. In case of engagement of "Distributor" for areas other than the urban areas, D.C.F.S will forward the proposal to D.DPS through the District Magistrate for approval of Govt. On approval by Govt. the vacancy will be notified in Notice Board and widely circulated news paper. The offers received will be forwarded to D.DPS for approval and the D.C.F.S will engage the dealer as approved.
14. List of the commodities distributed under the present scheme of Public Distribution System: Rice, wheat and sugar.
15. Where are the commodities procured from?
- (a) Rice and wheat are normally procured from the godowns of Food Corporation of India Ltd. However, Rice may also be procured from State godowns.
 - (b) Sugar is procured from the designated godowns of WBECSC Ltd.
16. Flow chart from procurement point to distribution point:



- Note: (i) The Wholesaler/Distributor makes required payment against allotment of Public Distribution Commodities made in his favour by JDR/DDR or Dist. Controller.
- (ii) The Dealer makes payment to the Wholesaler/Distributor for the public distribution commodities delivered to him against Advice of R.O./SCFS.
- (iii) The Dealer ultimately receives payment from beneficiaries as per price fixed by Govt. for distribution of food grains as per given scale.

