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Sonal Singh,



Golden Research Thoughts



FOOD SECURITY: - SOME CONCEPTUAL ISSUES IN INDIAN CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

n a free economic system, market forces acts in the form of demand and supply. The prices of the commodity are determined those who are capable to pay prices of goods can take benefit of them. Those who are incapable to pay the price are remained deprived.

KEYWORDS: Food security, Indian Context, provide essential item.



Therefore a mechanism is desired that can provide essential item to those who cannot purchase these item from market due to their low income and spiriling inflation. Public distribution system filled this gap and works as a mechanism that channelize essential food products to the needy and downtrodden people, particularly to those who are living below poverty line. It is the duty of the government to provide sufficient food to each and every section of the society.

CONCEPT:-

PDS was introduced in India before independence in 1939 to control food shortage and famine conditions. It is managed by a dual market mechanism as its deals with controlled market with the basic motive of maximing social benefits. It is basically an aspect of demand and supply management to meet the basic need of weaker section of the society.

FEATURES:-

It is a mechanism of sale of selected commodities through FPS (Fair Price Shops) these FPS works under the



direct control of government.

- Essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar, pulses, colthes, kerosin oil are supplied under PDS at a very low price.
- PDS work with free market mechanism give rise to the phenomena of mixed economy in essential goods i.e. card holders can purchase good from free market or open market.
- The aim is to provide at least a minimum quantity and quality of essential items at reasonable price to the people living below poverty line, (BPL)

OBJECTIVES OF PDS:

- To ensure equitable distribution of essential commodities to vulnerable section of the society at reasonable price.
- To safe guard the interest of

consumers against the non availability of food grains and rising prices.

Coverage of both deficit and surplus food grains in states
 To maintain price stability in economy.

POLICY INSTRUMENT:-

- Procurement of food grains
- Price Support operations
- Operation of food grains (buffer Stock)

History of PDS:-

Before independence, the second world war had created scarcity of food grains and essential commodities in almost all countries and due to the scarcity and decreases in level of production tends to a very hike rise in prices of food grains. To deal with this problem, a food and price control department was established in December 1942 under British rule. In order to control the deficit situation, the govt. of that time felt the need of a comprehensive food grain policy with the purpose that could increase food grain production, stoppage of exports, procurement of food grain and to create a central food reserve pool.

PDS after Independence:-

In 1947 food crises remained in the country because of the loss of major irrigation system of India became the part of Pakistan. therefore in July 1948, in a conference of all the states it was decided to reimpose control of food grains supply of essential good through fair price shop.

Structure of PDS in India:-

PDS works in a three tier system in India at national level, the procuring storage and national level decision making program takes place. At state level agencies like civil supplies, corporation, state cooperative consumer federation works, at lower level FPS, retail outlets of center and state level and primary cooperatives distributes the essential commodities to the card holders.

Revamped PDS:

PDS was not giving benefits to people who are living in hilly areas and far-flung/remote areas in the country. It was also said that PDS are urbanbised. Therefore in 1992 a programme was started in 1698 selected blocks of the country. It was started in Barmer(Rajsthan) distt. at the first. Certain hilly areas and such areas were identified where earlier PDS system was not properly working, in this programme with the help of state government 11000 new FPS were opened in the 1698 blocks. Additional items like tea,soap, pulses, salt, match box and clothes were distributed under this programme. 25.4 lakh ration cards were issued and 1.46 metric ton storage capacity created till march 1993.

Targeted PDS

The PDS was criticized as it was said urbanbised and its failure to provide essential items to the poorer section of the society. A need was felt for search a machnism which could identify the needy and more focused to the people living below poverty line. In 1997 TPDS was introduced as a two tier subcidied pricing system to benefit the poor under the system central government i.e government of India was committed to provide food grain to states to meet the requirement of BPL's families. A

transitory location of essential food grains whould also be given to states for APL. The state government were directed to allocate a different ration card to the BPL people and essential goods will be given at subsidized price with better monitoring of delivery system.

AAY (Anthodya anna yojna)

A step was taken in the direction to make TPDS aimed at reducing hunger among the poorest segment of the BPL population in 2000 in the form of AAY. A national sample survey point out towards effect that 5% of total population sleeps without two squared meals a day. They called them hungry. Primarily one crore poorest of the poor families from BPL were covered under this scheme. These families were given rice at 3 rs. Per kg. and wheat @ 2 per kg. the scale of issue was 25 per kg. per month per family and it was increased to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from 1 april 2002. In 2003-04 additional 50 lakhs household were covered in this scheme and 2005-06 total household were 2.5 crore i.e 38% BPL. Criteria adopted to identify household under this scheme was:

- Landless agricultural labour, marginal farmers
- Persons earning their lively hood on dailywages in informal sector.
- household headed by widow with no assured means of susitence or socitel support.
- All primitive tribal households.

Items	Categories		
	APL	BPL	AAY
Wheat	6.10	4.35	2.00
Rice	8.30	5.65	3.00
Kerosin Oil	12.97	12.97	12.97
Sugar		13.50	13.50

Source: Food and supply department Haryana

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ORDINANCE 2013

- In this ordinance government tries to provide adequate quantity and quality of essential food items i.e rice, wheat, pulses to the people at affordable price. With the implementation of this scheme the number of beneficiary in rural area has increased from 38 laks to 90.28 laks and urban area from 16 laks to 36.21 laks. This scheme would include approx 50% of the Haryana`s population. Critaria adopted to be the beneficiary under this scheme:
- A person should not have more than 5 acer agricultural land.
- Family income should not be more than 2 laks per annum.
- Family head should not be owner of car, truck.
- There should not be a plot registered on his name.

Objective: the objective of the present paper is to provide a theoretical framework and highlights the setps and policies adopted by the central government and state government of Haryana to strengthen the working of PDS and food security.

SUMMARY:-

The PDS has been a major instrument for ensuring availability of certain basic commodities at affordable price to poor section of the society that constitutes BPL and AAY. It acts as a safety net. Many studies show that PDS is criticized for its failure to fulfill its main objective of providing food security to

the poor both in the form of availability and affordable price. It is also criticized on the ground that it is urbanized its functioning is very poor in rural areas. State wise allotment of food grains is not proper

.

Government has been unable to control the distribution of essential item due to its political unstability, interference vested interest; uncertainty of moonson etc. keeping in the present situation there is an urgent need review the policies and implementation of this system. Proper identification of targeted people (BPL), computerization vigilance checkup proper weighing measurement should be taken time to time. Panchayat could play afficient role in the functioning of PDS. Therefore there is a need to take the coopration of NGO's and panchayat that could fulfil the aim of food security.

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