



ALL INDIA FAIR PRICE SHOP DEALERS' FEDERATION

Regd. No. District East/Society/273-2011 of Govt. of NCT. of Delhi

Regd. Office : S-562, School Block, 'AKHAND HINDUSTHAN BHAWAN' Shakarpur, Delhi - 110 092, Mobile : 98110 12241/9871421221

Head Office : AC-164, Prafulla Kanan (East), Kestopur, Kolkata - 700 101, West Bengal

Phone : (033) 2591 3871, Mobile : 9875308556 / 98301 35530 / 9748777000, E-mail : gs@aifpsdf.org, Website : www.aifpsdf.org, WhatsApp : 9875308556 / 9830135530, Facebook : facebook.com@aifpsdf

Prof. Saugata Roy
Hon'ble M.P. Lok Sabha

Chief Advisor
Ph.: 2290 3272, 2422 0772
Mob.: 9830031220 / 9013180175

Shri Kacham Krishnamurthy
President
Mobile : 9849024567
8008018012

Shri Biswambhar Basu, B.Com, LLB
General Secretary
Ph. : (033) 2591-3871
Mobile : 98753-08556 / 98301-35530 / 97487-77000
WhatsApp : 98753-08556 / 98301-35530

Shri Dharani Dhar Borah
Treasurer
Mobile : 9678270358

Advisory Committee : Shri Pushparaj (Kaka) Deshmukh, Shri Kiranpal Singh Tyagi, Shri Kalicharan Gupta, Sardar Inderjit Singh

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Shri Onkar Nath Jha (Jharkhand)

Sr. Vice President :

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Janab Ramjan Ali Ansari (Bihar)

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Shri Rajendra Sharma (Haryana)
Shri Tech Lir (Arunachal Pradesh)
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Shri Indra Prasad Pathak (Manipur)
Shri Mahesh Bhai Raman Bhai Patel (Dadra & Nagar Haveli)
Jb. Anwar (Lakshadweep)
Shri Barun Singh (Bihar)

Shri Karamjeet Singh (Punjab)
Shri L. Madappa (Mysore)
Shri T. R. Subbaraju (Karnataka)
Jb. Anaytullah Malik (Jammu & Kashmir)
Shri Vijay Kumar Ghritlahare (Chhattisgarh)
Shri Rabindra Nath Ganguly (West Bengal)

Ref. No.: AIFPSDF/681/24

Dated : 20.08.2024

To
Shri Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi Ji,
Hon'ble Union Minister,
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and
New & Renewable Energy,
Government of India,
"KRISHI BHAWAN",
New Delhi – 110 001.

Sub : Our Fervent & Tearful Appeal.

Most Hon'ble Sir,

We express our heartiest thanks and gratitude for most kindly inviting us in the inauguration program of "JAN POSHAN KENDRA" at New Delhi on 20.08.2024.

Since we expect to get the proud privilege of meeting your honour, we feel most inclined to place for favour of your perusal a Charter of our much – repeated appeals with our dying desire that they would meet your kind consideration and see the light of some remedial measures as we are just at the end of our tolerance with our viability melting down day-by-day.

With tearful expectation,

Encl: 1 (one) as stated.

We remain your Honour Sir,
Yours faithfully,

(BISWAMBHAR BASU)
National General Secretary
Mobile: (+91) 98753 08556



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We will not go for a lengthy discussion and so we are submitting in short our long – standing problems and their proposed remedial measures without which we have been forced to face imminent financial decay:-

- (1) We have been pressing for years for enhancing our Margins and after long persuasion, Government of India pleased to entrust "World Food Program" to examine our problems and submit their report with recommendations. The 3rd party agency submitted their report as back as in February 2020. But sadly, only **Rs. 20/- per quintal for General Category States** and **Rs. 37/- per quintal for Special Category States** was increased in as the Margin for the Fair Price Shops on adhoc basis in **April 2022** without paying any credence to the recommendations. Since then, no further increase has been made though it has been clearly mentioned in the NESA that Margins of FPS Dealers would be reviewed after 3 (three) years. In fact, from proclamation of the NFSA in 2015, no enhancement of the Dealers' Margin has been made in 2018 & 2021 and in 2022, only an adhoc increase of Rs. 20/- per quintal had been made and adding 3(three) years 2021, another review in the present year 2024. The backlog of enhancement of Margin after proper review needs to be updated immediately.

In the above context, we would beg of you kindly to consider enhancing the Margins of the Fair Price Shop Dealers for the sake of saving them and their families from imminent financial ruin. A minimum **Monthly Income Guarantee of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only** for the Fair Price Shop Dealers' needs to be ensured by way of a permanent solution to this problem.

- (2) The Union Govt. has been granting an **Additional Margin of Rs. 21/- (Rupees twenty – one) per quintal** as provided for distribution of foodgrains through e – PoS devices. This assistance is provided for deployment of technology savvy manpower at the FPS and boost – up the FPS Dealers morale to learn new technologies and implement SMART PDS effectively

Unfortunately, however, most of the State Govts. pay a portion of **Rs. 21/- (Rupees twenty – one)** for service & maintenance of the e – PoS machines to the System Integrator and are keeping the remaining portion with them or with the Union Government in contravention to what has been directed in the **National Food Security Act**. We would beg of your Honoured Self kindly to consider issuing an order directing the State Govts. to pay the cost of deployment of technology savvy manpower at the FPS since the date of implementation of e – PoS machines with retrospective effect.

- (3) The decision of the Union Government to supply "**Bharat**" brand essential items like **Chana Dal, Moong Dal, Atta, Rice, Wheat & other items** in the open market through the Central Agencies like **NAFED, NCCF & Kendriya Bhandar** with a view to checking the open market spiralling prices of such items may kindly be routed through Fair Price Shops also for boosting up the viability of the Fair Price

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Shops and saving the Consumers from the perils of open market. Though, the Union Food & Public Distribution Department has issued a Government Communication (No. 1(2)/2024-PD-I(E-385781) dated 16.05.2024) in this regard, the operation of it has been put in the cold storage by other concerned Departments.

- (4) Technical snags due to problems in the biometric system needs to be cured immediately by keeping an alternative arrangement of supply by inserting Aadhaar Nos. as declared by **Madam Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti Ji, Former Hon'ble Minister – of – State for Food & Public Distribution, Government of India** in **Rajya Sabha on 16.12.2022** with a view to operational reality, harassment of the Consumers and also to ensure that they do not have to return empty handed.
- (5) We have appealed to the Union Food Dept. for kindly considering grant of **atleast 1% Handling Loss & Storage Loss** to Fair Price Shop Dealers as a matter of operational reality as the Central Government is liable to assist the State Government to meet the expenditure incurred for handling of foodgrains allocated for the entitled beneficiaries. Unfortunately, no compliance has as yet been made by the State Governments / Union Territories of this direction.
- (6) May we bring it to your kind notice that our Federation has been continuously requesting the Union Government for kindly considering procurement & supply of Rice & Wheat in **Jute Gunny Bags** doing away with the present system of supply in **High – Density Polythene (HDPE) Bags**. The request has been made because of the fact that the High – Density Polythene (HDPE) Bags are often leaky and get damaged during handling and transit which result in leakages and loss. Moreover, supply of cereals in jute gunnies will also boost up the Jute Industries and those associated with it.
- (7) During doorstep delivery at FPS level **cent percent weightment on bag – to – bag** basis must be ensured and jointly certified by both the State Government Agency and FPS Dealers and grant of tare of empty bags must also be ensured.
- (8) **Maintenance of Registers** should be done away with as recommended by **Shri Piyush Goyal Ji, Hon'ble Former Union Food & Public Distribution Minister** following the introduction of biometric method of distribution through the e – PoS machines.

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- (9) Pressure should be created on all State Governments and Union Territories to implement decisions taken by the Central Government for better "Transformation of Fair Price Shops" by helping them to provide services as – (i) Common Service Centre (ii) Banking Service (iii) Postal Service (iv) Distribution of 5 kg LPG Cylinder (v) Approval of Mudra Loan (vi) PM Wani Network Connection, (vii) Jan Ausadhi Kendra, (viii) Nutrition Hub, (ix) Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- (10) The Union Food Ministry needs to direct the State Governments to assess the minimum number of beneficiaries to be linked with a Fair Price Shop for ensuring the minimum turn – over of a Fair Price Shop with strict compliance of **TPDS Control Order (Para – 9, Sub – Clause – 5 & 6)** to make it viable. This has become necessary because for lack of such assessment and a direction thereof, the State Governments are not making any **Rationalisation of beneficiaries** which could go in favour of the Fair Price Shop and bring a parity of viability amongst the Fair Price Shops of an area. Moreover, without assessing the viability of existing Fair Price Shops, Licenses for new Shops are being given making matters worse for the existing Shops.
- (11) Compensation must be granted for **Corona victim FPS Dealers @ Rs. 50 Lakhs (Rupees fifty lakhs)** as kindly granted by the **State Government of Rajasthan**.
- (12) The number of beneficiaries under the NFSA was fixed on the basis of the Census population of 2011 but now in 2024, even after a lapse of about 14 (fourteen) long years, it has not been revised and updated leaving quite a large number of beneficiaries deprived because of such obsolete figure of eligible beneficiaries.
- (13) The provision of paying advance Margins to the FPS Dealers as laid down in the NFSA are not being followed by any State Governments / Union Territories barring **Chhattisgarh** which may kindly be looked into and ensure that all State Governments / Union Territories abide by the NFSA norms.
- (14) Even after discontinuation of "**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**" Scheme since January 2023, FPS Dealers have not received their due Margins in full on that count in some States like **Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Nagaland, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh** etc.
- (15) The **Hilly, Desert, Tribal, Island and such other difficult to access areas** in different States like **Darjeeling in West Bengal** may kindly be given similar special benefits of **Special Margin** of the **Special Category States** as their problems are same and similar.

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ALL INDIA FAIR PRICE SHOP DEALERS' FEDERATION

Regd. No. District East/Society/273-2011 of Govt. of NCT. of Delhi

Regd. Office : S-562, School Block, 'AKHAND HINDUSTHAN BHAWAN' Shakarpur, Delhi - 110 092, Mobile : 98110 12241/9871421221

Head Office : AC-164, Prafulla Kanan (East), Kestopur, Kolkata - 700 101, West Bengal

Phone : (033) 2591 3871, Mobile : 9875308556 / 98301 35530 / 9748777000, E-mail : gs@aifpsdf.org, Website : www.aifpsdf.org, WhatsApp : 9875308556 / 9830135530, Facebook : facebook.com@aifpsdf

Prof. Saugata Roy

Hon'ble M.P. Lok Sabha

Chief Advisor

Ph.: 2290 3272, 2422 0772

Mob.: 9830031220 / 9013180175

Shri Kacham Krishnamurthy

President

Mobile : 9849024567

8008018012

Shri Biswambhar Basu, B.Com, LLB

General Secretary

Ph. : (033) 2591-3871

Mobile : 98753-08556 / 98301-35530 / 97487-77000

WhatsApp : 98753-08556 / 98301-35530

Shri Dharani Dhar Borah

Treasurer

Mobile : 9678270358

Advisory Committee : Shri Pushparaj (Kaka) Deshmukh, Shri Kiranpal Singh Tyagi, Shri Kalicharan Gupta, Sardar Inderjit Singh

Working President :

Shri T. Krishnappa (Karnataka)
Shri Onkar Nath Jha (Jharkhand)

Sr. Vice President :

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Shri Shiv Kumar Garg (New Delhi)
Shri Meijiing Gonmel (Nagaland)
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Media-in-charge :

Shri Girish Tewari (Uttar Pradesh)
Shri Saurabh Gupta (New Delhi)

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(16) Withdrawal of "Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme" from Chandigarh, Puducherry, Part of Lakshadweep and APL farmers of Maharashtra.

(17) The Tide – over allocation meant for PDS in the North – Eastern States are often being allotted to the local public representatives who in their own way through Channels other than the Fair Price Shops distribute the same. Any subsidised items should be supplied only through the Fair Price Shops.

(18) Burning Problems created by the State Governments :-

- As per the *National Food Security Act*, the Dealers are supposed to distribute Rations from their Shops but in West Bengal, the Dealers are forced to go out of their Shops and distribute Ration at the doorsteps of the Cardholders. In this connection in a representative manner, some Fair Price Shop Dealers moved before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta and the Hon'ble Division Bench had been pleased to rule out the decision of the West Bengal Government. Thereafter, the State Government moved before the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the Order of the Ld. Division Bench. The matter is still subjudice. The Union Food Ministry may kindly consent the case against the appeal of the State Government on the ground that the State Government Order is in violation of the NFSA.
- In Andhra Pradesh, the State Government is collecting Ration from the Shops and distributing them to the Consumers by appointing 3rd parties. This should also be stopped as violative of the provision of the National Food Security Act.
- The *Punjab State Government* gives Margin to Fair Price Shop Dealers @ Rs. 50/- per quintal as a Margin only whereas *Union Government has enhanced the Margin to Rs. 90/- per quintal* and all other State Governments are paying accordingly only Punjab is an exception. The Punjab Government may kindly be directed to pay the Margin to the Fair Price Shop Dealers as per National Food Security Act rules and in accordance to the rates fixed by the Union Government.

Next Page.....

Asst. Secretary :

Shri Dundaiah (Karnataka)
Shri Kaushik Saha (West Bengal)
Shri Bharat Prasad (Sikkim)
Shri A. Siva Kumar (Andaman & Nicobar)
Shri Babasaheb Ghoshal (Kerala)

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Shri T. R. Subbaraju (Karnataka)
Jb. Anaytullah Malik (Jammu & Kashmir)
Shri Vilav Kumar Ghritlahare (Chhattisgarh)



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[5]

d) **Enhancement in allocation of PHH Rice from 5 kg. to 15 kg for the state Arunachal Pradesh:** People of Arunachal Pradesh mostly depend on NFSA Rice for daily consumption as there is meagre Rice production due to hilly reason in the entire State. Hence, enhancement of Rice quota from 5 kg. to 15 kg is earnestly needed. As there is a very limited area available for cultivation due to hilly terrain, quota of 5 kg. Rice per person in a month is extremely insufficient.

e) **Lack in fulfillment of e-KYC:** As per the directive of Government of India, the introduction of distribution through e-PoS device after getting the e-KYC done is really a very revolutionary decision taken by the Government of India. But due to lack of electricity, network, internet and social media facilities in almost 50% area of the State of Arunachal Pradesh, it is almost impossible to implement the directive as of now and due to this could not show the monthly transaction. It has also been repeatedly apprised to the Government of India and CPMU Team that in the State of Arunachal Pradesh there are still many Districts which have no internet connectivity due to which non-automated (Manual) distribution cannot be done away with, it has to be taken into consideration as well.

(BISWAMBHAR BASU)
National General Secretary
Mobile : (+91) 98753 08556