

The National Food Security Act (NFSA), enacted in 2013, legally entitles more than 80 crore beneficiaries to receive highly subsidized food grains through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Under the NFSA, eligible households or beneficiaries include those under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH) categories. AAY households considered the poorest of the poor, are entitled to receive 35 kg of food grains per household per month, and households categorized under PHH are entitled to receive 5 kg per person per month. Further, from January 1, 2024, food grains are being provided free of cost to all beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

The nation's food security relies on a complex supply chain managed by the Central and State Governments, with a network of **5.3 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs)** serving as pivotal last-mile delivery agents. Over the past decade, DoF&PD has implemented various initiatives and technology-driven interventions in the Public Distribution System (PDS) to enhance operational transparency, reduce leakages, minimize the diversion of food grains, and improve the experience for beneficiaries at FPSs.

## Jan Poshan Kendra (JPK)

Extending with its commitment to food security in the country, DoF&PD aims towards strengthening nutrition security while also enhancing the income of FPS dealers. DoF&PD is initiating a program to transform FPSs into nutrition hubs, also referred

to as 'Jan Poshan Kendras' (JPKs). In addition to the PDS commodities i.e., rice and wheat, These JPKs will offer a diverse range of nutrition-dense commodities to diversify the food basket such as millets, pulses, edible oils, soybeans, and dairy products at competitive prices. These JPKs are envisaged to provide additional revenue streams and better margins to the dealers while bridging the nutritional gaps among beneficiaries.

To ensure the successful implementation of this initiative, DoF&PD has signed the following Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs):

- MoU with the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD): This premier organization under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will facilitate a capacity-building program for FPS dealers. The program will address the specific skilling needs of FPS dealers in areas such as financial, digital, and nutritional literacy, basic business operations, and entrepreneurship development.
- MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI): This partnership aims to provide FPS dealers with easier access to credit. SIDBI has developed a comprehensive digital solution called "FPS-Sahay," an ondemand Invoice Based Financing (IBF) application designed to offer completely paperless, presence-less, collateral-free, cash flow-based financing to FPS dealers.

SIDBI has also collaborated with B2B aggregators like Udaan and Jumbo Tail to supply nutritional commodities and integrate backend systems with the FPS Sahay App.

The Jan Poshan Kendras are envisaged to address nutritional gaps among beneficiaries while offering additional revenue opportunities and improved profit margins for dealers. This pilot program is being launched by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Sh. Prahlad Joshi, on August 20th, 2024 at a total of 60 Fair Price Shops (FPSs), with 15 shops in each of the four selected districts: Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Hyderabad.

The JPK initiative is aligned with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of India @2047, "Sabhi ko Anaj, Poshit Samaj" ensuring that every citizen has access to sufficient and nutritious food.

## Mera Ration App

The Mera Ration App represents a significant milestone in the Department of Food and Public Distribution's (DFPD) commitment to delivering citizen-centric solutions through the digital transformation of the Public Distribution System (PDS). Launched in 2021, the app is a key component of the One Nation One Ration Card initiative, enabling beneficiaries to access a wide range of services related to their entitlements and PDS issues with a single login, regardless of their location.

In alignment with the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which aims to provide free food grains to over 80 crore



beneficiaries for an additional five years, the DFPD is excited to introduce the revamped Mera Ration App 2.0. This upgraded version incorporates a suite of new, value-added features designed to enhance the user experience and make it even more seamless and user-friendly. Heads of families can log in using their Aadhaar numbers registered with their ration cards. Beneficiaries can access Mera Ration App 2.0 in 13 languages, ensuring inclusivity and ease of use for all users.

## **Key Features**

The upgraded Mera Ration App includes several essential features:

- Family Details: Users can check family details and submit requests to update information about family members.
- Ration Entitlements: Beneficiaries can verify their entitlements under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- Track My Ration: Users can track the status of their ration supplies.
- My Grievances: The app allows users to lodge grievances regarding quantity, quality, or any other issues related to ration distribution.
- Sale Receipt: Users can view transaction records issued by Fair Price Shops for the past three months.
- Benefits Received from Government: The app enables beneficiaries to track all government subsidies provided for food grains delivered to them.

- Nearby FPS Shops: Users can easily locate the nearest Fair Price Shop to their residence.
- Surrender Ration Card: The app facilitates requests for surrendering ration cards.
- Ration Card Transfer: Beneficiaries can seamlessly raise requests to transfer their ration cards from one location to another.
- Apart from the beneficiaries, the revamped Mera Ration App will also provide a comprehensive set of information on the Public Distribution System and help Central and State Govt to better serve the problems of beneficiaries. Department officers can log in and access information related to the total number of ration cards, distribution of AAY and PHH category cards, the status of pending grievances and detailed month-wise distribution data.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Sh. Prahlad Joshi, is launching the Mera Ration 2.0. on August 20th 2024. This marks a landmark in alignment with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of India @2047 aiming at transforming the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

