

Best
Practices
Series

Scheme for Home Delivery of Foodgrains

A Successful Experiment under Public Distribution System



Shekhar Gaikwad



Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration

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- First in Maharashtra Public Service Commission (Agriculture Services Class-I) Examination (1984)
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- Deputy Collector at Kolhapur, Solapur and Pune
- Private Secretary to Chief Minister, Mantralaya (1999)
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Academic Work

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Publications

- Shetkaryano Savadhan (1996) – A Booklet in Marathi on Land laws
- 'Pherphar Nondinchi Nirgati – Ek Adarsha Karyapadhati' (1999) A Booklet in Marathi on Mutation Entries
- Goshtirup Jamin Vyavahar Niti (2002) A Marathi Book on 'Stories based on legal maxims'
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Awards

- Represented Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri in National Elocution and Debating Competition and received Best Speaker Award (1982)
- Shetkaryano Savadhan received Dr. Rahudkar-Baliraja Award (1996)
- Goshtirup Jamin Vyavahar Niti (Stories based on legal maxims) received Dr. Rahudkar Baliraja Award (2002)
- Shetiche Kayade received Maharashtra State Literary Award (2006)
- Bagged State Level Rajiv Gandhi Administrative Award (2008) instituted by Government of Maharashtra, for Innovative Home Delivery Scheme of Foodgrains, implemented as erstwhile Additional Collector, Nashik

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PREFACE



V. Ramani, IAS
Director General

It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain food security in the world with around 850 million people starving worldwide due to extreme poverty. According to recent FAO figures, in the year 2009-10 alone, 40 million more people have been pushed into hunger primarily due to increase in food prices.

The scenario in the developing countries is rather bleak where poor households find it difficult, at times almost impossible, to stock any food at all. Around two billion people lack food security intermittently due to varying degrees of poverty. Girl children and women are the most vulnerable sections of society who get adversely affected because of this situation.

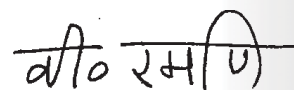
Food security is nothing but accessibility and availability of sufficient, safe and nutritious food to all people at all times to meet their dietary needs and food preferences. In a country like India, where we have the largest network of Public Distribution System (PDS) for the last 50 years, a number of difficulties still exist in providing foodgrains directly to the beneficiaries. Many studies on the PDS have been carried out. The Planning Commission's evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has indicated that there is high cost of handling and 58% of the subsidized foodgrains do not reach the intended families. It is also observed that up to 36% of the foodgrains are sold in the black market. Plenty of food is available but the distribution of the same amongst the poor and destitute is less than satisfactory, leading to malnutrition and starvation.

A cursory glance at the cost benefit analysis of the PDS shows that it is cheaper to give grains free to the poor than to transport and store it.

On the basis of this study, Shri Shekhar Gaikwad, then Additional Collector, Nashik, initiated the open distribution of foodgrains in the presence of the village community periodically every 3 to 6 months. This was well received by the community in Nashik district and is fast becoming popular in the other districts of the state as well. Recently this innovation gained recognition at the state level and was chosen for the 'Rajiv Gandhi Administrative Award 2008' of Maharashtra State.

The Home Delivery Scheme of Foodgrains is helping to improve the image of Government in general and has brought 100% transparency in the delivery mechanism. While the scheme is receiving overwhelming response from various parts of the State, it is essential that the administrative officers, the supply staff and various stakeholders understand it fully and correctly. Therefore, this small booklet is being published by YASHADA, a premier institute in development administration. The Home Delivery Scheme of Foodgrains is the first in a series of documentation of best practices in good governance that we wish to publish. With the help of this publication, I hope the scheme will reach the maximum number of people.

Pune
Date: 28 May 2010


(V. Ramani)

About the Scheme


Food, Clothing and Shelter are basic human needs. However, it is difficult to say that everybody in our country gets enough food. In spite of various efforts of Government through a systematic planning process, the poor are deprived of the basic necessities. Certain Government programmes are properly implemented whereas a large number of them do not reach the beneficiaries who in turn are displeased with the Administration.

One of the most unique of such programmes in India is the Public Distribution System under which wheat, rice, palm-oil, sugar etc. are distributed to nearly 10.5 crore households in the country. As per the Planning Commission's Evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), 36% of the subsidized foodgrains are sold in the black market and 28% of the subsidized foodgrains do not reach the families Below Poverty Line.

As Additional Collector, Nashik, I visited number of villages in the district, where people always had grievances about the Public Distribution System. I visited many tribal hamlets and discussed the issue of delivery of foodgrains with number of beneficiaries. During the course of these deliberations, the need for an alternative that would ensure 100% timely distribution of foodgrains took strong roots in my mind. Though on the one hand people were fed up with the Fair Price Shops they did not wish for the cancellations of their licences owing to age old ties with the operators. On the other hand they were ready to pay for the food gains in advance if the delivery of the same was guaranteed to them. One Time Home Delivery Scheme was therefore conceptualised after series of deliberations with the poorest tribals of Surgana and Peth Taluka.

I proposed a pilot scheme to the State Government and in due course was granted the permission to implement it on an experimental basis in Nashik district. Now the Scheme is being implemented in more than 300 villages and spreading rapidly to other districts in the State. The media also highlighted the advantage of the new Scheme. Recently, Government of Maharashtra also acknowledged the scheme with the *Rajiv Gandhi Administrative Award 2008*. As the scheme is being implemented in other parts of the State the need for systematic efforts to disseminate the information about the scheme has increased. Therefore, this best practice is being documented in English. The information booklet contains the details of the Scheme, Frequently Asked Questions, Steps involved in implementation, Formats, etc. that would prove helpful in the replication of this model.

I dream that some day each poor household has a couple of quintals of foodgrains stored in advance for a period of at least six months instead of lakhs of tons of foodgrains decaying at procurement centres and warehouse godowns. This would probably make India the most food secure country in the world in terms of availability and accessibility of food!


(Shekhar Gaikwad)
Additional Collector and
Registrar, YASHADA

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FOOD SECURITY

WORLD SCENARIO

1. Around 850 million people are chronically hungry worldwide due to extreme poverty. According to recent FAO figures, in the year 2009-10 alone 40 million more people have been pushed into hunger primarily due to increase in food prices.

By the end of 2007, increased acreage in the cultivation of bio fuels, rise in oil prices the world over, population explosion, climate change, loss of agriculture land to residential and industrial development and growing consumer demand have pushed up the prices of grain.

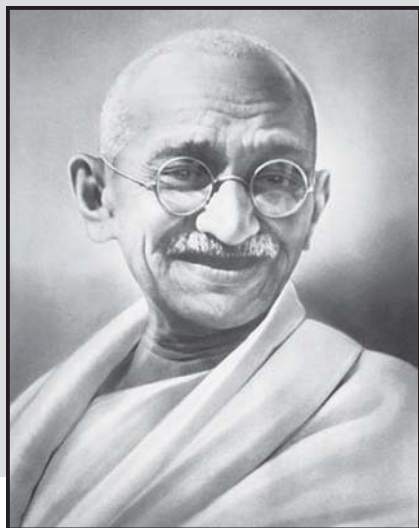
2. UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food security as –when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preference for an active and healthy life.
3. Globally enough food is produced to feed the entire world population at a level adequate to ensure that everyone can be free of hunger and fear of starvation. That no one should live without enough food because of economic constraints or social inequalities is the basic goal. This approach is often referred to as food justice and views food security as a basic human right. It advocates fairer distribution of food, particularly grain crops, as a means of ending chronic hunger and malnutrition. The core of the Food Justice movement is the belief that what is lacking is not food, but the will to fairly distribute food regardless of the recipient's ability to pay.
4. The food crisis is being called a 'silent tsunami' – since it is threatening over 100 million people, including 20 million of the world's poorest children. Rising prices for staples like rice means that fewer people are getting the food that they need, pushing more people into poverty, and causing violence and instability. All countries which have legislated the right to food, have involved Civil Society Organizations, not just in local structure, but also in the national-level oversight bodies.

INDIAN SCENARIO

1. The Public Distribution System is the largest food subsidy programme in India, and perhaps in the world. It reaches out to nearly 10.5 crore households in the country and provides subsidized foodgrains through a network of Fair Price Shops (FPS).
2. Despite this, India continues to have one of the worst track records globally, as far as the commitment to tackle hunger and malnutrition is concerned. The last round of the National Family Health Survey in 2006 confirmed that the child malnutrition rate in India is 46%, almost double that of Sub-Saharan Africa. India, the world's second fastest growing economy, ranks 66th among the 88 countries surveyed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in the Global Hunger Index (2008), below Sudan, Nigeria and Cameroon, and slightly above Bangladesh.
3. As per the Planning Commission's evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), 28% of subsidized foodgrains do not reach the BPL families, whereas 22% reaches Above

Poverty Line (APL) and 36% is sold in black. According to the study, for one rupee worth of income transfer to the poor, the Government of India (GoI) spends Rs.3.65, indicating that one rupee of budgetary consumer subsidy is worth only 27 paise to the poor. The implementation of TPDS is plagued by targeting errors, prevalence of ghost cards and unidentified households. Homeless often do not have ration cards and only 57% of the other poor households have ration cards. FPSs are not viable; they remain in business through leakages. The key problems with TPDS shown in the evaluation are Inadequate Storage Capacity with FCI, poor condition of the State Food Corporations, states do not have food infrastructure, GOI quota lapses after one month, politics in the allotment of APL quota, shopkeepers lease out their shops to contractors, the shop does not open for more than 2-3 days in a month, ration cards being mortgaged to ration shop owners, too many intermediaries between the shopkeeper and the FCI.

4. Keeping the above facts in mind, an alternative method of periodical one-time distribution of foodgrains, openly before the community, either quarterly, half yearly and annually was tried in Nashik district by Additional Collector, Shri Shekhar Gaikwad,. This scheme is, popularly called 'Gharpoch Dhanya Yojana', the 'Home Delivery of Foodgrains Scheme.'



“There are people in the world so hungry,
that God cannot appear to them except
in the form of bread.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

HOME DELIVERY SCHEME OF FOODGRAINS

INTRODUCTION

Despite various efforts made by the government to ensure that the poor get foodgrains under its Public Distribution Scheme (PDS), a number of difficulties still exist in providing the foodgrains directly to the beneficiaries.

In the existing system foodgrains are distributed through Fair Price Shops. Every month foodgrains are carried from Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns to Taluka places and from Taluka godowns distributed to the Fair Price Shops.

A pilot scheme of periodical home delivery of foodgrains was proposed by, Shekhar Gaikwad, then Additional Collector Nashik in 2006 and received approval of Government of Maharashtra in April 2007.

NATURE OF SCHEME

This scheme proposed that beneficiaries of the PDS will get quota foodgrains of three, six and twelve months, instead of monthly basis directly at their doorsteps. Thus grains should be distributed only three to four times a year. Actual need of the consumers is taken into account and ration card holders are asked to make payment in advance. The consumers are asked to be ready with the money to pay for the required amount of foodgrains. On a date pre-decided by the administration, the amount is collected from consumers by the Supply Officer / Village Talathi in advance. This amount collected for the entire village is deposited in the Government treasury under the proper account head. The place and date are fixed for distribution of foodgrains and grains are distributed to the ration card holders before the Gramsabha, the village community. Foodgrains are distributed in the form of standardized sacks of 50 kg each. Instead of prevailing system of distribution through Fair Price Shops (FPS) followed by occasional inspection by Supply Officers, the scheme ensures a transparent distribution system in front of the village community.

AMOUNT TO BE PAID

No.	Scheme	Maximum Grain for 3 months (kg)		Amount to be paid	Maximum Grains for 6 months (kg)		Amount to be paid
		Wheat	Rice		Wheat	Rice	
1.	Annapurna	15	15	Free	30	30	Free
2.	Antyoday	50	50	250	100	100	500
3.	B.P.L.	50	50	550	100	100	1100
4.	A.P.L.*	50	50	825	100	100	1650

*If the norms are changed, actual quota can vary and can be in multiple of 50 kg.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **Pilot Scheme:** Initially the scheme was proposed as pilot scheme in three Talukas of Nashik district namely Surgana (tribal), Dindori (tribal) and Niphad (non-tribal).
- **Planned Programme of Distribution:** The Tahsildar should prepare a detailed programme of distribution of foodgrains considering the rainy season, cropping season, road conditions etc. Social factors such as festivals, period during which people normally get employment, the peak period during which the need of foodgrains is highest should also be considered. The Scheme is expected to reach up to the hamlets with even 50 houses.
- **Consent and payment in Advance:** Depending on the need of foodgrains every family is expected to give consent for the period for which the family is ready to pay money in advance. This period has to be 3 months, 6 months or 1 year.

Ration card holders should make payment to Talathi or Supply Officer on the scheduled day. This is for ensuring that amount of all the needy persons is collected on one day and grains are distributed on a single day in a village. This saves lot of time while implementing Home Delivery Scheme.

- **Actual Distribution:** The distribution of foodgrains in the form of 50 kg sacks is done before villagers at a community place. Publicity is given to the programme so that other villagers also attend and get inspiration and adopt the scheme. The distribution is done before the Gramsabha (Community) and local representatives.

PRINCIPLES OF THE SCHEME

- Scheme of purchase of foodgrains from FCI godown remains the same as the regular PDS.
- Transport arrangements and cost of transport from FCI godown to Tahsil godown remains the same as PDS.
- Foodgrains from Taluka godown are not to be taken to Fair Price Shops. Instead they are taken to a village site directly for distribution. This transport and distribution are carried on the same day as per pre-decided schedule.
- Transport of foodgrains is carried out either by Government vehicle or FPS vehicle, since FPS is allowed transport rebate as per government rules.
- The distribution of foodgrains is organised at a centrally located place convenient to everyone in the village, vasti or hamlet.
- As distribution is done in the form of sacks of 50 kg each as are standardized in godown, it takes hardly one or two hours.
- Distribution is done before Media, NGOs, MLA, Zilla Parishad members, other Panchayatraj functionaries and the entire village community.
- Any NGO or independent organization can inspect and verify the implementation and effects of scheme. So also the effects on livelihood, storage methods, nutrition etc, can be studied.

ADVANTAGES OF THE SCHEME

■ **One Time Distribution :**

Foodgrains are distributed once in three, six months or one year. Therefore there is no necessity to distribute foodgrains again for next 3 / 6 months / 1 year period.

■ **Food Security :**

Traditionally farmers have been storing grains in various types of local storage devices in India. Therefore storage of foodgrains for 6 months is not a big problem for the ration card holders. The decentralized system of storage of foodgrain in thousands of households would ultimately bring about food security.

■ **Transparency in Distribution:**

Since the programme of distribution of foodgrains takes place before community, malpractices in distribution are eliminated.

■ **Monitoring:**

Once grains are distributed, independent agencies, NGOs can verify whether the grains are properly utilized.

■ **Sustainable Scheme :**

Since the new scheme reduces the expenditure on transport and guarantees 100% delivery of foodgrains, this scheme is more sustainable.

■ **Cost Saving :**

In the existing system, foodgrains are transported from Tahsil office to village 12 times a year. In the new scheme, the minimum period prescribed is 3 months and therefore the transportation is required for maximum 4 times a year. This saves the transport cost.

■ **Family's Control :**

The new scheme has become more pro-family because there is complete control of family members over the foodgrains received. The lady of the house has food security for longer period and she controls the utilization of foodgrains.

■ **Boon to the poor :**

Government is spending huge funds in tribal areas separately for fighting malnutrition in addition to food subsidy programme. The new scheme would reduce the malnutrition and under nourishment as well. The foodgrains for next 3 or 6 months will give sufficient food security to the poorest families. They can instead concentrate on their employment and welfare once the concern of foodgrains is over.

■ **Foodgrains to Actual Residents :**

Many a time people take ration cards only as evidence of ordinary residence, which is useful for them for social / political reasons. But the new scheme expects money to be deposited in advance by actual residents and therefore foodgrains would also go to the actual residents, who are genuine beneficiaries.

■ **Prohibition to Organized Black Marketing :**

Every year many offences are registered against FPS for violations under Essential Commodities Act and yet organized black marketing has not been effectively stopped. The new scheme will

check the organized black marketing of grains because once the grains reach the consumers; it is difficult to repurchase them.

■ **Increase in purchasing power:**

The new scheme will help in increasing the purchasing power of the poor.

■ **Satisfaction to Consumers and Time Saving :**

The scheme gives more satisfaction to consumers and saves their time.

■ **Grains to the needy:**

Instead of storing grains in large quantity in Government godowns, this scheme would ensure decentralized storage of foodgrains in thousands of households.

■ **Saving in Administrative costs and time:**

The new scheme saves lot of time of supply staff on account of recurring activities such as filling up of chalans, permits, bills etc. The human resources in Government can best be utilized in the new scheme because the work load gets reduced once we shift to one time food distribution mechanism.

PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME (Till March 2010)

Sr. No.	Name of Taluka	No. of Villages/shops	No. of Beneficiaries	Distributed Foodgrain for 3 months (in Qtl.)
1	Nashik	9	820	820
2	Igatpuri	38	10396	10396
3	Sinnar	8	861	861
4	Dindori	24	3173	3173
5	Peth	41	3399	3399
6	Surgana	50	4578	2005
7	Niphad	4	1910	1910
8	Trimbakeshwar	36	3710	3710
9	Nandgaon	3	214	214
10	Satana	20	2380	2380
11	Chandwad	23	2396	2970
12	Kalwan	46	3272	3272
13	Devla	2	166	166
14	Yewla	1	437	339
15	Malegaon	9	1449	1449
	Total	314	39161	37064

INITIATION OF EXPERIMENT AT VILLAGE ALANGUN TALUKA SURGANA

Village Alangun, Taluka Surgana, is one of the remotest part of Nashik district. The tribals of this village got the supply of foodgrains under the new scheme on 6th June 2007.

The pilot project in Nashik district aimed at cutting down the pilferage, number of bogus beneficiaries etc. As many as 76 *Antodaya* ration cardholders out of 77 in Alangun took their three/six month's quota of foodgrains. Further 119 B.P.L. card holders out of 132 took their quota and one of the total 17 beneficiaries of the A.P.L. card holders participated in the scheme and received the grains.

The ambitious project was launched in the presence of District Collector, S. Chokkalingam, Additional Collector, Shekhar Gaikwad, Deputy Commissioner (Supply), Prakash Thube, and MLA, J. P. Gavit .

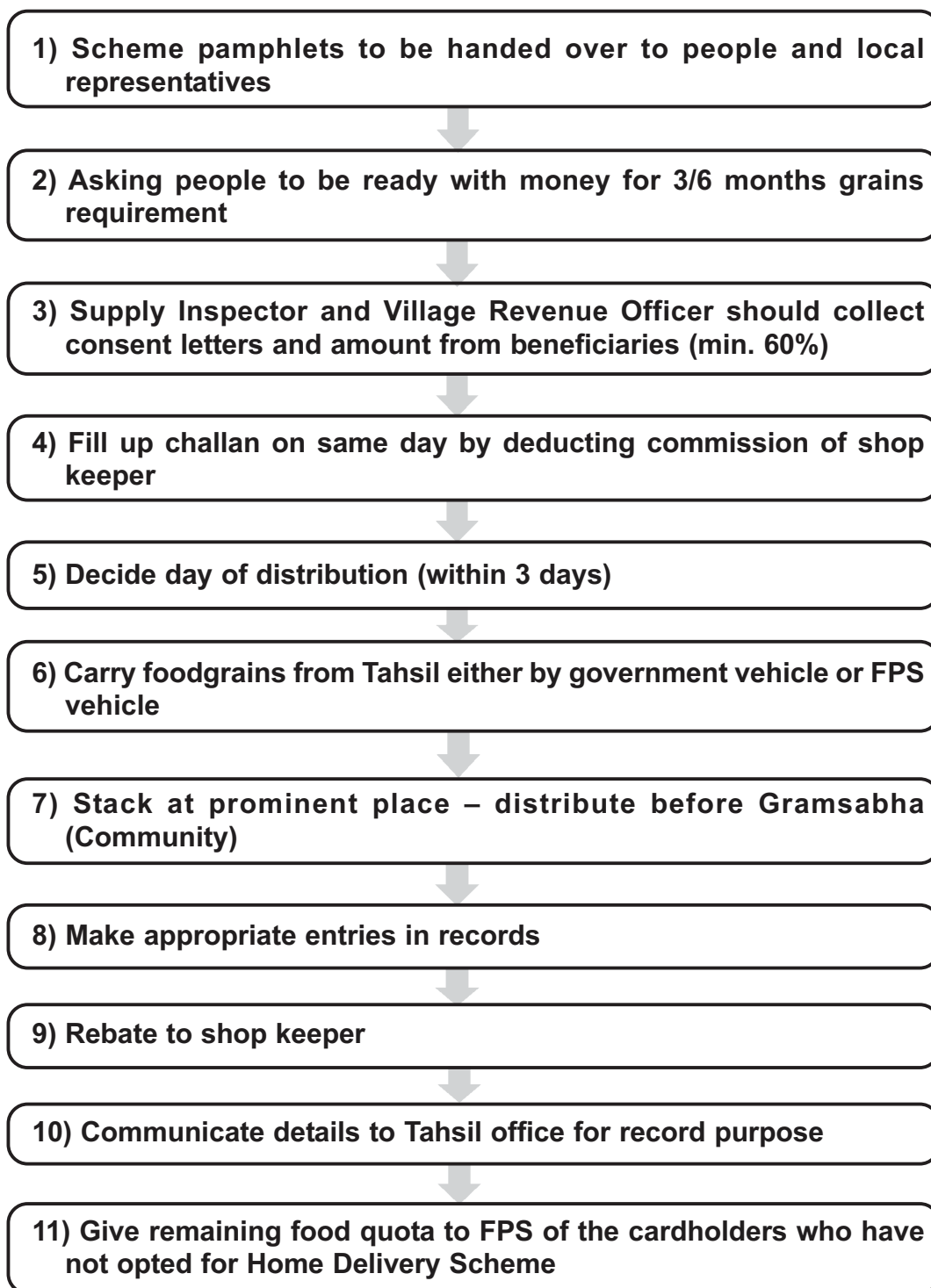
While inaugurating the scheme Collector S. Chokkalingam said, "The customers would be getting their quota of 3 to 12 months at a time, they will not have to worry for the supply of foodgrains for the said period and while the administration will have a check on the distribution of the foodgrains, the customers can take care of the foodgrain they have received."

MLA, J. P. Gavit said, "All these years we have been watching the tricks of FPS helplessly without uttering a word to any one .This is the best scheme for the poor and should be implemented everywhere. The Scheme should be named after our village **Alangun**."

Additional Collector Shekhar Gaikwad said, "After 60 years of Independence, this is the first time that the poor from any part of the country have got freedom from the harassment of the Fair Price Shopkeeper and this will give food security to people."



STEPS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTATION



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. 1. How to go about the scheme initially?

Ans. The essence of the scheme should be studied first. Then the pamphlets of the scheme should be distributed among the villagers and the peoples' representatives.

If 60% of the ration cardholders are ready to participate in one time delivery scheme, the letter to that effect can be submitted by the people to Tahsildar, who is in-charge of food supply at the block level. The specimen format for the consent letter has been given (Form No. 1).

After receipt of consent letter from villagers Tahsildar should depute Supply Inspector / village level Revenue Officer to collect the money in advance towards the food quota. The date of collection of money should be decided in advance so that all people gather at one place and deposit the money. The list of ration card holders for a village should be prepared in Form No. 2 in duplicate. One list should be published at a prominent place as advance receipt towards payment. The entire money collected should then be deposited to Government Treasury under appropriate budget head. The commission that Fair Price Shop (FPS) gets as per government rules should be deducted from the total money collected and be kept with Supply Inspector / village level officer. Within 2-3 days after payment is received, the foodgrains should be transported to the village from Taluka Godown and should be unloaded at a prominent community place and distributed immediately to the villagers.

Q. 2. How to maintain records while distributing foodgrains for 3/6 months period, if only 60% people participate in the scheme and remaining 40% not opting for one time distribution scheme?

Ans. Wherever one time food delivery scheme is implemented, a register should be maintained at the block level indicating how many villages and how many consumers in the village have opted for one time delivery and what is the remaining number of ration cardholders of each category of scheme to whom regular ration per month needs to be given. When a FPS comes for filling challan at block level, his quota for the month should be calculated by deducting quota distributed under one time delivery scheme, so that nobody is deprived of the foodgrains. This means both the schemes can go hand-in-hand and run parallel.

Q. 3. What are the benefits of One Time Food Delivery Scheme?

Ans. Following important benefits of the scheme are noticed :

- **One Time Distribution:** Foodgrains are distributed once in 3/6 months or 1 year. Therefore there is no necessity to distribute foodgrains again for next 3/6 months or 1 year.
- **Monitoring:** Once grains are distributed in a village, independent agencies, NGOs can verify whether the grains are properly utilized thereby making monitoring easier.
- **Sustainable Scheme:** Since the new scheme reduces the expenditure on transport and guarantees the delivery of foodgrains in a transparent manner, the scheme is more sustainable.
- **Family Control:** The new scheme has become more pro-family because there is complete

control of family members over the foodgrains received in bulk quantity as against monthly purchase by need of the family.

- **Foodgrains to actual residents:** Many a time people take ration cards as evidence of ordinary residence, which is useful for them for social, political reasons. But in the new scheme money has to deposit by actual residents and therefore foodgrains are given to the actual needy residents.

Q. 4. Many people in our villages work as agriculture labourers in vine yards and sugarcane farms and migrate from October onwards to the adjoining Talukas. Is the scheme beneficial to them?

Ans. In the existing scheme of PDS normally the foodgrains are given at the place of ordinary residence. System also takes care of migrant workers but the procedure prescribed is cumbersome and tedious. The ration cardholder is expected to apply for cancellation of ration card / for reducing certain names of migrant family members and expected to carry No Objection Certificate to the place of destination.

However, in Home Delivery Scheme once the grains are taken at the place of ordinary residence, families can migrate and still secure their needs and overcome food insecurity issue.

Q. 5. Has the work load of Government and people reduced because of one time delivery scheme? If yes, how?

Ans. Yes. The overall workload of administrative machinery has definitely reduced. Mainly because the procedure involved in home delivery scheme is very easy and simple :

- Distribution takes place within 1-2 hours, as the grains are distributed in the form of sacks of 50 kg.
- Normally each block has 125-150 villages and villagers participate in the scheme on the basis of consensus. Therefore it takes time for the ration cardholders to unite, have consensus, collect money in advance, take delivery of foodgrains etc. Therefore, whenever scheme gets started in a block, initially few villages participate and the number goes on increasing lateron. Because of this staggered scheme of distribution, all villages can be covered one after another and no additional food quota is required in large quantity.
- The supervision on the scheme has become effective because in every village Tahsildar / Supply Inspector can remain present for distribution, since in a year one has to attend distribution in a village once in 3/6 months.
- The new scheme has completely eliminated the process of frequenting the FPS.
- FPS Commission as per Government rule has been kept intact. Therefore, FPS cannot have grievances about the new scheme. The new scheme has put the greatest check on organized black marketing of foodgrains because once the grains reach the consumers; it is difficult, uneconomical and almost impossible to repurchase the grains already distributed.

Q. 6. Will the consumer sell the grains received in open market?

Ans. Even after 60 years of independence we have not been successful in providing 100% foodgrains on monthly basis to all households. Diversion to the extent of 40-60% of the grains has been detected under the Public Distribution Scheme. On this background, if we can ensure 100%

delivery of foodgrains, there is no point in worrying about what happens thereafter. Utilisation of the same is the sole concern of the concerned family.

Q.7. Once the grains are distributed, will the consumer be able to store them?

Ans. Traditionally farmers have been storing foodgrains in different types of containers. Women especially take utmost care of the foodgrains just as much they take of their children. However, similar care cannot be taken of the foodgrains stored in government godowns. Therefore, instead of millions of tons of foodgrains lying in open fields at procurement centres, FCI godowns, Railway Stations etc., one quintal each stored in each household in a decentralized manner can give food security to millions of families.

Q.8. What is the benefit of the scheme to the remote areas?

Ans. Hundreds of villages especially in the Western Ghats are not accessible by roads. People have to travel distances of 15-20 kms., mostly on foot, to reach a market place. One time food delivery scheme is in fact most useful for such remote areas.

Q.9. If the male member of the family is addicted to liquor wont the grains be sold in open market?

Ans. In Nashik district, the scheme has been implemented in more than 200 tribal villages. In these villages it is observed that the entire control of foodgrains is shifted from male head to the women folk after the introduction of one time food delivery scheme.

Q.10. Once the foodgrains are distributed under one time home delivery scheme will the FPS keeper or anybody on his behalf collect the grains and sell in the open market?

Ans. It is highly impossible to collect already distributed foodgrains from each household because of the complex socio-political, religious and ethical values of the society. Further, it is uneconomical to do so. At least it requires Rs.220 per quintal expenditure to collect and carry the foodgrains from village to a district place. That is why the Home Delivery Scheme has become popular among the ration cardholders.

Q.11. What is the net additional expenditure involved to implement the scheme in a district?

Ans. In fact, the government has no additional financial burden while implementing home delivery scheme. At least 10-15% of the foodgrains are saved mainly on account of ghost cards - ration cards in the name of fictitious / non-existent families and farmers who do not take foodgrains on ration cards. In traditional delivery mechanism, the foodgrains were carried every month to 1000-1200 villages in a district, 12 times a year. In the new scheme the transport expenditure would be substantially reduced because of one time distribution every 3/6 months. It is estimated that on an average 2-2.5 crores rupees per district would be saved on account of transport charges and approximately 2 crores would be saved because of reduced foodgrain requirement.

Q.12. As per Home Delivery Scheme, the ration cardholders have to pay for 3-6 months foodgrains at one time. If some people do not have this much of money required to be paid, what should they do?

Ans. In fact, one time home delivery scheme is purely optional. This is an innovative scheme and has been evolved as an alternative mechanism to existing delivery mechanism because of the ills that plague the existing PDS. The people who do not participate in home delivery scheme would continue getting foodgrains through FPS.

Q.13. Is it not possible to implement home delivery scheme if only 10-20% ration card holders participate in it?

Ans. The scheme can be implemented but it would not be effective because it does not reduce substantially the administrative burden. So also it would be impossible for the administration to keep 100% transparency over distribution, if majority of the consumers are not participating.

Q.14. In the existing scheme the empty gunny bags remain with the shop keeper after distribution. In the Home Delivery Scheme, foodgrains are distributed in sacks. Can the empty gunny bags be kept by the ration cardholder?

Ans. Yes. This has been welcomed in tribal areas as they are getting at least 2-4 empty gunny bags in addition to the food-grains. This has been pointed by the tribal people themselves as the additional benefit of the scheme.

Q.15. We want to implement Home Delivery Scheme of Food Distribution in our village. Few of us met the Tahsildar and he told us that more food quota would be required. Is it true?

Ans. No additional food quota is required and scheme of home delivery can be implemented with the normal supplies at a block level. This is because of staggered programme of distribution spread over entire year. Since, scheme expects consent of the people and advance payment as a pre-requisite it takes time to cover all the villages in a block immediately as per the new scheme. If any village is given foodgrains under one time home delivery scheme, then the grains are not required to be distributed for next few months. By that time, more number of villages can be covered. Slowly and steadily every village can be covered as per the new scheme without much burden on food stock.

Q.16. How is the image of Government improved because of Home Delivery Scheme of Foodgrains?

Ans. The ills of the present PDS are well-known and well documented. Plenty of food is available but the distribution of the same amongst the poor is scarce and non-existent leading to malnutrition, starvation and other problems. It is calculated that it is cheaper to give grain away free to the poor than to transport and store them. In contrast to this scenario, the Home Delivery Food-grain Scheme has helped improve the image of government because of following striking features:

- Foodgrains are distributed in front of villagers, media and local representatives thereby making the distribution system transparent.
- Whenever foodgrains are distributed under Home Delivery Scheme the allegations against the government machinery have stopped.
- New scheme has checked the organized black marketing of foodgrains completely.
- The new scheme is cost-effective and has given satisfaction to consumers.
- Wherever the scheme has been implemented, it has become sustainable also. People do not want to revert back to the traditional system of distribution through FPS.
- The scheme has put a check on many loop holes in the existing PDS.



FORMATS FOR THE SCHEME

Form I

(Application for Participation in the Scheme)

To,
Tahsildar _____

Subject: Participation in One Time Home Delivery Scheme of Foodgrains.

Respected Sir,

We are the residents of village _____ Taluka _____ and we have ration cards on our name under Public Distribution System.

As per government norms each of the family normally receives _____ kg wheat and _____ kg rice per month. For 3/6/12 months period we can get _____ kg of wheat and _____ kg of rice.

However, on the basis of our actual need kindly sanction one time food quota for 3/6/12 months period for which amount of Rs. _____/- (in words _____) is being paid in advance.

1) Signature

2) Signature

Schedule – A

Date : / /2010

Name of Village : _____

Name of Taluka : _____

Name of Scheme : _____

Rate: Wheat _____ Rice _____

Sr. No.	Name of Beneficiaries	Ration Card No	Demand for 3/6/12 Months (kg)			Amount Paid	Signature for Payment	Signature for receipt of grains
			Wheat	Rice	Total			
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								

Form II

(Letter to be addressed to village level worker / Supply Inspector)

Government Godown

Date : / / 2010

To,

_____(Village Level Worker)

Subject : Distribution of Foodgrains under Home Delivery Scheme.

With reference to the above subject, the ration card holders of village_____ Taluka_____ have paid the requisite amount towards one time home delivery of foodgrains as per the list attached. Now therefore it is essential to give and distribute the foodgrains to the ration card holders as per the details below :

Sr. No.	Scheme	No. of ration card holders	Foodgrains to be distributed (Qtl)
1.	Annapurna		
2.	Antodaya		
3.	B. P. L.		
4.	A. P. L.		
	Total		

Therefore, it is hereby instructed that you as representative of the government take the delivery of above foodgrains and transport the same in government vehicle No._____/ FPS Vehicle No._____ and distribute to ration card holders before Gram Sabha, the Village Community, NGOs and Vigilance Committee Members etc. Kindly distribute the foodgrains only to those who have deposited the money in advance. Necessary entries on ration cards and the receipts etc., should be taken as per government orders. Once the distribution of foodgrains is over, the commission of distribution be paid to fair price shop keeper as per the norms. Kindly send the compliance report of distribution of food-grains.

Tahsildar_____

Receipt : Received_____ quintal of foodgrains from government godown _____ for distribution under Home Delivery Scheme.

Date:

Village Level Worker

Time:

Form III
(Certificate of Distribution of Food-grains)

It is hereby certified that we have received _____ quintal of foodgrains under BPL / APL / Antyoday / Annapurna Scheme for open distribution under home delivery scheme. The said foodgrains are distributed to the beneficiaries in front of community and the list of beneficiaries is hereby attached. It is also certified that actual beneficiaries who paid money in advance have been given the foodgrains under Home Delivery Scheme. There is no complaint regarding procedure of distribution.

Sr. No.	Designation of important people present at the time of distribution	Name	Signature
1.	Sarpanch		
2.	Police Patil		
3.	Village Level Worker		
4.	Gram Sevak		
5.	Supply Inspector		
6.	Vigilance Committee Members (1)		
7.	Vigilance Committee Members (2)		
8.	Vigilance Committee Members (3)		
9.	Vigilance Committee Members (4)		
10.	Vigilance Committee Members (5)		

Copy to: Tahsildar _____

People's Overwhelming Response



HOW MUCH OF FOOD-GRAINS!

We just can not believe that the Fare Shop Keeper was being given so much of foodgrains in our name. For the first time after independence we have seen so many food bags at one place...

- The women of Village Alangun, Taluka Surgana, District Nashik

DO NOT ASK US TO GO TO FAIR PRICE SHOP AGAIN!

Fair Price Shop Keeper was never bringing foodgrains on time in our village. Traditionally his family was heading our village. We the women of Self Help Group came together and participated in Home Delivery Scheme twice. Now do not ask us to go again to Fair Price Shop...

- Self Help Group of Village Tiradshet, Nashik

PROPER UTILIZATION OF MONEY!

The moment we women received money from wages of work of Employment Guarantee Scheme, what we did first was to pay money in advance for Home Delivery Scheme...

-Women of Village Vijapada, Taluka Trimbakeshwar, District Nashik

SOCIAL JUSTICE TO PEOPLE!

The Home Delivery Scheme is definitely going to arrest organized black marketing of food-grains. The scheme must be started in all tribal blocks. The traditional scheme of PDS was causing lot of injustice to true beneficiaries. In addition, the foodgrains were not reaching to many villages thereby depriving the people. The new scheme is going to give a right of purchase of foodgrains to people and will ultimately help in elimination of injustice...

- Manoj Ghonge, Zilla Parishad Member, Peth

CONGRATULATIONS!

It is very difficult to maintain diverse interest of people in society. Besides society and people have complex relationship with each other and the system tries to usurp downtrodden people. In spite of these situations, starting a good scheme like Home Delivery Scheme of Nashik is highly innovative and the Nashik District Administration have set a good example by starting this scheme...

- Adv. K. G. Kulkarni, Nashik

DECISIONS SHOULD BE WELCOMED!

Implementation of Home Delivery Scheme of foodgrains infact means real democracy reaching to the poor. For the common man, needy, dalit and adivasi and for backward classes this scheme is going to be beneficial and the scheme should be welcomed by everybody...

- Prof. Ayub Shah, Yewala

BLACK MARKETING WILL STOP!

The scheme of Home Delivery of Foodgrains initiated by Government in the remote and inaccessible tribal areas is highly beneficial and it will stop the organized black marketing of food-grains. However, there has to be coordination among government officers and staff to make the scheme successful...

- Mohan Gangurde, Surgana

SCHEME WILL BENEFIT PEOPLE!

Many a times foodgrains are issued by Government to FPS, however, they does not reach the people. Through the Home Delivery Scheme, It can definitely reach people. People have been troubled because of modes operandi of FPS Keeper and people are fade up to frequent the shops...

- Sitaram Jadhav, Chas

WILL CHANGE THE WHIMPS OF FPS!

Most of the time FPS are closed. The FPS keepers have their whims and there is nobody to control them. The Home Delivery Scheme is definitely going to change the whimsical attitude of FPS. That is why everybody should welcome the scheme by heart!...

- Anil Amrutkar, Kalwan

SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT!

In fact, every ration cardholder has a basic right to the subsidized ration. Home Delivery Scheme has ensured delivery of ration to actual needy persons instead of it being sold in black market. This scheme therefore needs to be implemented effectively and transparently...

- Muktar Kureshi, Malegaon



HAVING ENVISAGED A FOOL-PROOF METHOD IN PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (PDS),
ADDITIONAL DISTRICT COLLECTOR OF NASHIK HAS SET AN EXAMPLE ON HOW THE
MACHINERY CAN BE PUT BEST TO USE IN ACHIEVING ITS TARGETS

Home Delivery System set to revamp PDS

Abhilash Botekar NASHIK CITY

For those entitled, getting foodgrain from the Fair Price Shops (FPS) of the Public Distribution System (PDS) has always been a tedious job. Most of the beneficiaries, after walking miles to reach the FPS, are simply warded off saying that there is no stock, even as the stock is siphoned off into the black market. Former Prime Minister Late Rajeev Gandhi had said that only 20 ps of the Rupee earmarked by the government, actually reached the beneficiaries. For the last fifty years, despite assurances and promises, the situation has hardly changed. But now at least the PDS is set to undergo sea change, thanks to the programme by Additional District Collector Dr Shekhar Gaikwad.

The brain-child of Dr Shekhar Gaikwad, Home Delivery System of foodgrains can easily be termed as a revolutionary step in the field of food security, especially for the poor. This fool-proof measure not only has a built-in measure



Started with an aim of providing food to PDS-beneficiaries in tribal areas, the Home Delivery system is picking up pace in urban areas too

to check corrupt practices to ensure that beneficiaries get all the food, subsidised by central government, but also teaches the importance of 'savings' to the people.

Launched on June 6, 2007 at Alangun, one year later the pilot-project at national-level has put forth some astonishing facts. The pilot project implemented by the Collectorate simply puts to rest all speculations about its success and the experience from 115 villages throughout the district, except Deola Tehsil - where the programme is yet to be launched. This project also shows its potential of revamping the PDS in the country.

The beneficiaries heavily rely on the mercy of FPS owners. But now revenue officials visit the village, assess the demand, collect money and next day deliver the grains packed in 50 kg-packs to all those who have placed demands, on

the day of Gram Sabha in front of everybody. "This is a pre-paid scheme by the government. Entire stock is delivered in a single day in two-hours flat, thereby cutting down the transportation costs phenomenally and the time of the machinery involved. The commission of FPS-owner and the porter has not been affected. The weaker section of society, with little awareness of saving money, collects money for food and buys stock for three months. This in the backdrop that poor in more than 80 countries in the world do not have stock of food for more than 10 days," says Dr Shekhar Gaikwad.

"There is no burden on the government in any way. In fact the scheme could save more than Rs 3 crore annually only in one district," Dr Gaikwad adds. Amazingly, none of the villagers have so far demanded reversion to the earlier system of PDS. In fact they are demanding for six-month-stock instead of three-month stock. Gradually the demand will be for 12-month stock in advance, he says further.

When asked how could poor manage savings, Gaikwad says, "Women are best guards for food for a family. Naturally women led the savings for their family in these villages. For those who were not able to join, the fellow women and the Self Help Groups (SHGs) did the trick and that's how even they joined."

The scheme has so far reached 115 villages out of 1351, while the percentage of beneficiaries has shot up to 82 percent from 58. The project has to reach 200 villages more to reach a sample size, so that it can be replicated in other parts. "We are hopeful that this will be achieved very soon," Dr Gaikwad signs off.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

- Antyodaya families now can store food
- Pre-paid scheme encouraging saving
- None of the 115 villages have demanded earlier system again
- Bogus cards eliminated easily
- PDS reached 58 % now to 82 %

To plug loopholes, PDS now goes for direct delivery

Starting June 6, pilot project in Nashik district will cut down pilferage, number of bogus beneficiaries, say officials

DHAVAL KULKARNI
NASHIK, JUNE 4

VILLAGERS in the tribal-dominated Surgana taluka in Nashik will no longer have to trudge to the nearest ration shop several times a month to buy rice and wheat available under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

From June 6, local PDS shop owners and revenue officials will reach them — the grains will be handed over at the gram sabhas.

The ambitious pilot project, being launched by the Nashik district administra-

tion in the taluka, say officials, will transform the face of the PDS by plugging many of its loopholes, including pilferage and black marketing.

"The scheme will be launched in 40 villages of Surgana, first in Alangun village, around 80 kilometres from Nashik, and later extended to other areas like Niphad and Dindori," Additional Collector, Nashik, Shekhar Gaikwad told *The Indian Express*.

This is how the scheme will work: Local revenue officers will visit the villagers, take undertakings and

money for the amount of grains needed. The next day, the local PDS shop owner will come to the village along with the officers and distribute the grains to the families before the gram sabha, thus eliminating fake beneficiaries whose quota is siphoned off into the organised black market.

The PDS shop owner will not be allowed to take the grains to the shop and will have to take it straight to the village. At the time of distribution of grains, necessary entries will be made on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

From the **FRONT PAGE**

Now, PDS goes for direct delivery

ration cards, and two digital photographs will be taken, after which one will be pasted on the card as a proof.

If the scheme proves successful, Gaikwad says the administration will suggest a new initiative where the beneficiaries can buy the PDS grains in bulk directly from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

This will help eliminate middlemen, and eventually ration shop owners, in the distribution chain, he says. Under the new scheme, villagers will be given the option of buying their supply of grains for a three-month, six-month or a one-year period. Those who would like to continue with the current system of buying grains for

a month would also be allowed to do so, says Gaikwad.

Principal Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, K.P. Bakshi says if the Nashik experiment works, it will be extended to other parts of the state. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Sunil Tatkare says: "This (the scheme) will also ensure food security, especially in the monsoon, and reduce instances of malnutrition."

The new measures would help save around Rs 3 crore in Nashik alone, adds Gaikwad. He says kerosene will also be distributed at the same time to reduce chances of black marketing, though the scheme is focussed on distribution of food grains.



>> ADC Shekhar Gaikwad, redefining PDS system

PDS makes inroads to Nandurbar

THE HOME DELIVERY SCHEME LAUNCHED BY NASHIK COLLECTORATE HAS RECEIVED OVERWHELMING RESPONSE NOT ONLY IN NASHIK, BUT HAS ALSO FOUND INROADS TO RURAL PARTS OF NANDURBAR

Abhilash Botekar NASHIK CITY

The other day, villagers from Nagalwadi near Girnare, came to the office of Additional District Collector Shekhar

Gaikwad with cash and demanded that the same be deposited with the administration to start Home Delivery Scheme in their village. It speaks volumes of the success of one-year-old scheme, the brain-child of Dr. Shekhar Gaikwad, which has not only made inroads to the tribal-dominated Nandurbar district but also has gained similar popularity.

One year of implementing the scheme has been full of challenges for the administration, which had braced itself to take on any opposition from sections like Fair Price Shop (FPS) licencees or even the officers. "The administration had its plan very clear: Under the PDS-rule, the government has to get the work of distribution done by someone (a medium) and if a person is not ready to coop-

erate he can always be replaced. The government officials also should not have any problem with the scheme as it consumes not more than two hours of a day," Dr. Shekhar Gaikwad said. Those not cooperating are being made to realise their duty.

Additional feature of the scheme is that bogus ration-cards were easily eliminated after well-to-do people were found holding BPL or Antyodaya cards and questions were raised in Gram Sabhas about the same. Besides, there were lot of people who either didn't stay in the village or had said no to the foodgrains from BPL category. All such stock going to the village every month has now been curbed.

Continued on page 3

- >> Home Delivery saves transport cost and time
- >> Ensures complete transparency
- >> Scheme appreciated in Nandurbar district
- >> Administration feels it will help in curbing malnourishment
- >> FPS-licencees limited to promoting scheme

PDS makes inroads to Nandurbar

>> Continued from page 1

"The administration was thus able to save tremendous amount food, but the exact quantity saved would be gauged only after every villager subscribed to the scheme. There are some villages with cent percent participation and we are evaluating the quantity of food saved," Dr. Gaikwad said.

The aroma of sweet success of the scheme is taking the entire North Maharashtra in its stride. While Nashik Collectorate has reached 115 villages benefiting 15000 families, the Nandurbar Collectorate, also started implementing on the scheme with directions from ADC Shekhar Gaikwad since August 2007, and has reached 69 villages benefiting nearly 9000 families.

Says District Sales Officer, Nandurbar, Ajay More, "The area covered under the scheme is mostly the Narmada project-affected belt and the scheme has played wonders here. It has also helped the ad-

ministration to address issues of malnourishment and the infant mortality incidents found mostly in the tribal-dominated areas. The people are very happy and the demand for the scheme is picking up rapidly after it took some time for the people to understand its benefit and collect their money."

The success of the scheme could be a warning bell for FPS-licencees whose work has now been reduced to literally nothing more than promoting the scheme among the beneficiaries as revenue officials collect the money and themselves distribute foodgrains. Already there are some talathis and other officials from the department airing their demand for incentives to take on the additional responsibility. The government may take a decision to completely take over the distribution of foodgrains and be most happy to pass on the benefits to its employees.

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The popularity of the scheme is such that villagers even come to my office demanding the scheme to be implemented at their places

- ADC Shekhar Gaikwad

”

Food grains at the door steps

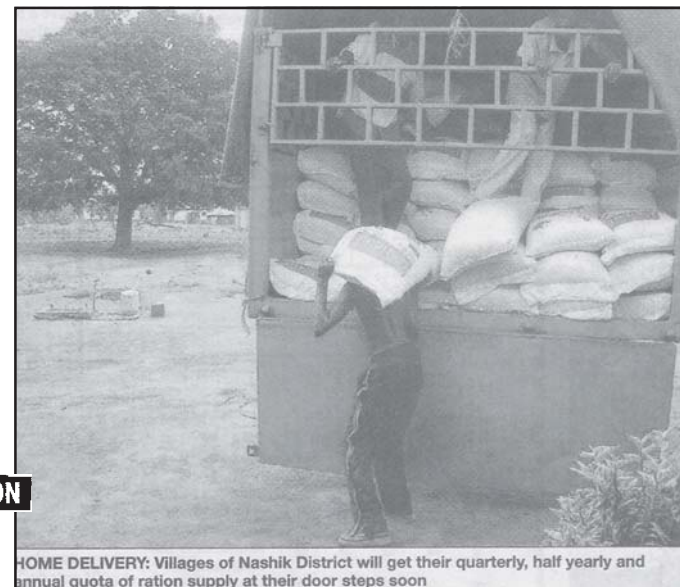
The new scheme by the District Collectorate will get underway from next week from Alangaon village in Surgana

SANTOSH SONAWANE

DESPITE various schemes of the government to ensure that the poor citizens of the country get food grains under its Public Distribution Scheme (PDS), a number of difficulties still exist in

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

providing the food-grains directly to the beneficiaries. Taking note of the difficulties in the existing system, recently a new scheme was proposed to the government to get rid of the lacunas. The scheme has been approved and henceforth, at least in Nashik, the beneficiaries of the PDS would be getting a quota of food grains of three, six and 12 months directly at their doorsteps. There are about 1,500



HOME DELIVERY: Villages of Nashik District will get their quarterly, half yearly and annual quota of ration supply at their door steps soon

beneficiaries of the Anna-purna scheme, 97021 beneficiaries of the Antyodaya scheme and 3,43,841 below poverty line (BPL) cardholders in the district, who rely mainly on the PDS to suffice their need of food grains.

Now as per this new

scheme, which would be implemented from the Alangaon village in Surgana tehsil from the next week, the customers will be getting their food-grain quota of three, six or 12 months in 50 kg sacks, at their village, wadi or their locality.

District Collector S Chokkalingum informed that since the customers would be getting their quota for a period of three to 12 months at one time, they will not have to worry for the supply of food-grains for the said period and while the administration will have a check on the distribution of food-grains, the customers can take care of the food-grain they have received.

Meanwhile, currently the district administration is informing all the villages coming under its jurisdiction about the new scheme. The

ration card holders will have to inform the administration about the quota, viz. of three, six or 12 months he would like to purchase and will also have to pay the required amount for food grains to the tehsildar or the supply officer. The ration cardholders will have to fill the form of consent made available by the district administration for getting the food-grains.

The food-grains will be distributed to the ration cardholders in front of the people's representative and the villagers, to keep transparency in the distribution system, informed Additional District Collector Shekhar Gaikwad.

At present about 40 villages have decided to take benefit of this scheme and care will be taken to ensure that the villagers get the food-grains within three days after they have paid the money for the food-grains.

A ration cardholder will get maximum 35 kgs of food-grains, but in the sacks of 50 kgs each. The amount they will have to pay for this will be;

Meanwhile, the district collector has urged the ration cardholders to take note that they will not get the food-grains of their earlier quota and not to decide the need of the food-grain on someone else's suggestion.

The attempt by the district collectorate is likely to receive a good response from across the district provided the ration cardholders get the exact quantity of food grains they have paid for.

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Scheme	Food grains for 3months		Amount	Food grains for 6 months		Amount
	Wheat (kg)	Rice (Kg)		Wheat (Kg)	Rice (kg)	
Annapurna	15	15	Free	30	30	Free
Antyodaya	50	50	250	100	100	500
BPL	50	50	550	100	100	1100
APL	50	50	825	100	100	1650

Centre may home-deliver grains throughout India

Prafulla Marpakwar / TN

Mumbai: Impressed by the success of the pilot project launched at the tribal Surgana village, Nashik district in June 2007, the Centre is now considering the extension of the home delivery system of foodgrain under the public distribution scheme (PDS) throughout the country in a phased manner.

Food and civil supplies minister Rameshchandra Bang said in view of the successful pilot project, it has now been decided that the scheme will be implemented in one tehsil in each district.

"It was a successful pilot project. We will be implementing it in one

tehsil in each district in the first week of March. The scheme will be introduced in all tribal villages across the state," Bang told TOI.

According to reports, taking cognisance of the scheme now known as 'Nashik—pattern in food distribution', the Centre has, in principle, decided to introduce the scheme in select villages across the country. "We have given specific details of the scheme to the food ministry headed by Sharad Pawar. We have been told that the Centre has agreed, in principle, to implement the scheme in select villages," a senior official of the PDS said.

Alarmed by the rampant irregularities and corruption in the

scheme, Nashik additional collector Shekhar Gaikwad undertook a survey of all the PDS shops in the entire district.

He found that despite the presence of several schemes to ensure that the poor get foodgrain under the PDS, there were difficulties in providing foodgrain directly to the beneficiaries.

"Plenty of food is available, it's distribution among the destitute is difficult. Forty to 80% of foodgrain does not reach the beneficiaries. In addition, it was found that weekly transportation of foodgrain to the fair price shops and subsequently to the beneficiaries was not possible," Gaikwad said in his report.

PDS SCHEME



He drafted a new strategy with the objective to bring complete transparency in the PDS.

Under the strategy, every beneficiary would get the quota of foodgrain; there would be food security for the community; the existing monitoring system would be strengthened and organised black marketing of foodgrain would be stopped completely.

Then it was decided that foodgrain would be distributed once in three months or six months or a year, instead of distributing them once or twice in a month. They were to be distributed in the form of standardised sacks of 50 kg each, after an inspection carried out by the supply inspector. Foodgrain are distributed on a pre-decided date and in the presence of officials. "We are delivering the foodgrain at the homes of the beneficiaries. There is complete transparency in the entire process," Gaikwad added.

He said sustainability of the scheme is in-built because it guarantees the delivery of foodgrain to the needy at the right time.

According to him, the new scheme will change the face of the PDS. The scheme was first launched in Surgana village and was later extended to 240 villages in Nashik district. "It benefited nearly 22,496 families. We distributed 29,838 quintals of food grains," he said.

Faroqui lauds Nashik-pattern in food distribution

IMPRESSED BY THE INNOVATIVE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SCHEME LAUNCHED BY THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT COLLECTOR, FAROQUI HAS DEMANDED THAT NASHIK-PATTERN BE IMPLEMENTED ON BY THE GOVERNMENT EVERYWHERE

Abhilash Botekar

Condemning the incidences and the forces behind the food and fuel adulteration cases, Chairman of State Consumer Advisory Committee, Kamaal Faroqui, demanded that consumer protection laws be implemented by the respective officers in strictest manner to reduce the incidences of adulteration. Faroqui was also impressed by the door-to-door food distribution service in the rural areas and hoped that this would be implemented state-wide.

A review meeting of the consumer associations, people's representatives, food and civic supply officers meet was held recently at the Revenue Commissionerate, Nashik Road. Additional Commissioner Subhashchandra Yeole, Secretary Kurungase, supply deputy commissioner Prakash Thube, Additional District Collector Shekhar Gaikwad and others were present at the meeting.

The meeting saw several complaints about the power distribution, food supply and especially the kerosene sold in grey market. Faroqui ordered the officers to take stringent steps against those engaged in illegal activities. He also asked the administration to clamp down upon all the vehicles that used the adulterated fuel (kerosene). "Adulteration of be it food or commodity, is an unbailable criminal activity and hence anybody found engaged in such activity should be immediately put behind the bars," Faroqui said.

On the consumer protection act, the chairperson regretted that awareness among the consumers was very less and that the stronger efforts were required to be put in for the same. He hoped that the children would be roped in for awareness programmes through the various programmes conducted in the schools and at the times expressed pleasure over the various consumer organisations already starting to work with the school-children.

Faroqui, who was impressed by the ADC Gaikwad's project of delivering the food under the Public Distribution Scheme to the last man - under which a photo of food-grains given to the citizens along with the house they stay-in was clicked and pasted on the ration card. He said, "The innovative scheme is really fine and it eliminates the chances of corruption and adulteration are almost without even hurting the commissions for the fair price shop owners. I personally would recommend the state government to implement the Nashik-pattern in the name of Gaikwad himself."

Thube in his address informed the chairman that the administration was determined to have a separate Post Bag No for the citizens so that they could write their grievances and complaints about the food and supply issues and the administration would take the required action against the offenders.

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Ration cards: Minister mulls replicating 'Nashik Pattern'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JANUARY, NASHIK 12

THE ongoing drive in Nashik to verify the authenticity of ration cards—called the Nashik Pattern—has inspired Food and Civil Supplies Minister Sunil Tatkare to replicate it all over the state.

Through its innovative method—a one-window process for application of ration cards linked to the existing SETU (bridge between government and citizens) system—the district administration has managed to detect and weed out a large number of bogus ration card applications.

"The system worked better than we had expected," said Additional District Collector Shekhar Gaikwad. "By simply connecting the process to the existing set-up we were able to reduce the paperwork, eliminate middleman and ensure that the cards were issued within the stipulated seven days."

But the real success in the verification drive came when letters were written to 118 companies in Nashik and also government offices, asking them to furnish income details of their employees. The offices were also asked to provide information on the category of ration card their staff had and gas connections.

The administration contemplated this move after it found the number of people in Nashik Municipal Corporation with annual income of above Rs 1 lakh was very low—just about 15,000.

"People were obviously showing lower incomes to get these cards and as a result the needy had no access to it," said Gaikwad. "We had to stop it. When we scrutinised data sent by companies we realised that many had shown annual incomes of below Rs one lakh, got BPL cards and the kesari ration card. All such cards will not be renewed."

In another initiative, the administration held camps in 17 slums and identified BPL families who needed cards. All leprosy patients were covered and so were the elderly. To overcome the proof of residence problem, they simply asked each applicant to stand in front of their make-shift homes, hold up their old cards, get a photograph clicked and attach it with their application forms. Minister Tatkare said that these innovations will help speed up the ration card computerisation process. Taking another leaf from the 'Nashik Pattern', the minister added that all distribution details will be publicly displayed and public representatives will be given copies.

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT

No. SVP/11306/485/CR-2573/CS-28
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers
Protection Department
Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 032
Date : 27 April 2010

To,
Additional Collector,
Collectorate,
Dist. – Nashik

Subject: Home Delivery Scheme 3-6 Months One Time Delivery of Food-grains.

Reference: Your letter : Supply/Desk/8(1)/239/2006 dated 15.07.2006.

In response to above mentioned subject, Government hereby gives in principle approval to the scheme. Kindly submit evaluation report of the scheme at the earliest.

Sd/-
(Bharat Suryavanshi)
Desk Officer
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers
Protection Department

राजीव गांधी
प्रशासकीय
गतिमानता (प्रगती)
अभियान व स्पर्धा
सन् २०१०

महाराष्ट्र शासन
राजीव गांधी प्रगती अभियान

राजीव गांधी प्रगती अभियान

प्रधास्तिपत्र

राजीव गांधी प्रशासकीय गतिमानता (प्रगती) अभियान व स्पर्धा सन् २००८-०९ अंतर्गत
'घरूपीच रेशन धान्य योजना' हा प्रस्ताव सादर करून
श्री. विश्वरूपा गावकवाड, तत्कालीन अप्पर
जिल्हाधिकाारी, नाशिक यांनी
उल्लेखनीय कार्य केल्याबद्दल राज्यस्तरावरील तृतीय (विभागून) क्रमांकाचे पारितोषिक देण्यात आले आहे.

दिनांक : १४-०३-२०१०

(जे. पी. डांगे)
मुख्य सचिव, महाराष्ट्र शासन

(अशोक चव्हाण)
मुख्यमंत्री, महाराष्ट्र राज्य



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Scheme for Home Delivery of Foodgrains Some Photographs





Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration
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