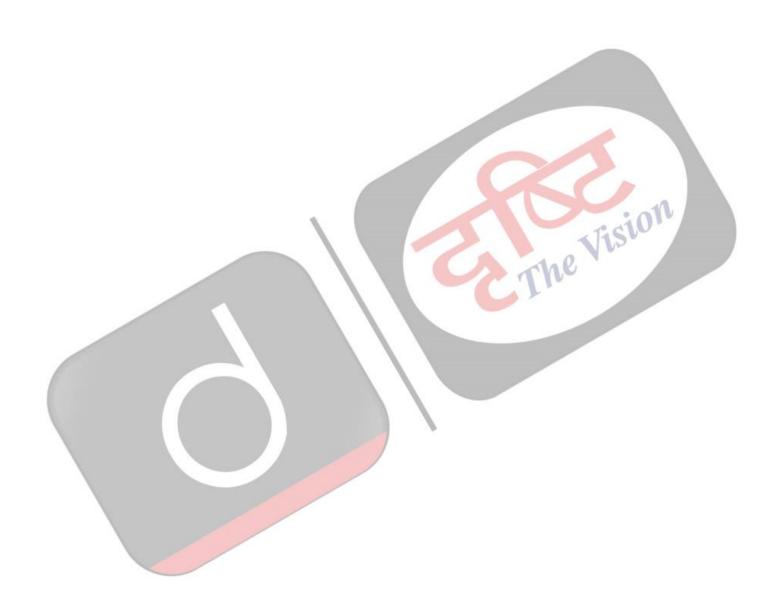


Public Distribution System



Introduction

- □ PDS: Indian Food Security System.
- ☐ Established under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.
- Operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments.

Evolution of PDS in India

- ☐ Introduced around World War II.
- □ Expanded in the 1960s as a response to the food shortages.
- Agricultural Prices Commission and the FCI were set up to improve domestic procurement and storage of food grains for PDS.
- Till 1992, PDS was a general entitlement scheme for all consumers without any specific target.
- □ Revamped Public Distribution System: launched in June, 1992.
- □ Targeted Public Distribution System launched in June, 1997 with a focus on the poor.
- Antyodaya Anna Yojana: launched in December, 2000 to make TPDS aim at reducing hunger among the poorest segments of the BPL population.
- In September 2013, Parliament enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013. It makes the right to food a justiciable right.

Public Distribution System

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Importance of PDS

- ☐ Ensuring Food and Nutritional Security.
- Stabilising food prices.
- ☐ Maintains the buffer stock of food grains.
- □ Redistribution of grain.
- Increase in food grain production due to MSP scheme.

Issues

- □ Large inclusion and exclusion errors.
- Leakage of food grains.
- Issue with procurement- lack of storage, transportation facilities.
- ☐ Shortfall in the government's storage capacity.
- ☐ MSP discourages crop diversification.
- □ Rapid decline in groundwater level due to water-intensive crops.

Reforms

- ☐ Beneficiary identification by Aadhar.
- □ Direct Benefit Transfer.
- □ Technology-based reforms of TPDS implemented by states.
 - digitisation of ration cards, the use of GPS tracking of delivery, the use of SMS based monitoring by citizens, etc.

Way Forward

- ☐ Enhance its effectiveness using technological tools.
- □ DBT requires caution as suggested by RBI and Economic Survey 2016-17.
- Strengthening of the existing TPDS system by capacity building and training of the implementing authorities.
- ☐ Efforts should be made to plug leakages.
- ☐ Increased public participation through **social**
- Participation of SHGs, Cooperatives and NGOs to ensure the transparency of PDS system at ground level.





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