



Mains Practice Question

Q. Examine the role of technology in improving the efficiency and transparency of the Public Distribution System (PDS). (150 Words)

31 Jan, 2024 GS Paper 3 Economy

- Write a brief introduction about the Public Distribution System.
- Mention the role of technology in improving the efficiency and transparency of PDS.
- Write a conclusion.

Introduction

The Public Distribution System (PDS) is a critical component of India's efforts to ensure food security for its citizens. Over the years, technology has emerged as a powerful tool in addressing longstanding challenges and improving the overall functionality of the PDS.

Body

- **Streamlining Supply Chain Management:**
 - One of the primary ways technology has contributed to the PDS is through the implementation of computerized systems in supply chain management. The end-to-end computerization of supply chain operations has significantly reduced manual interventions, minimizing errors, leakages, and inefficiencies.
- **Enhancing Transparency through Biometric Authentication and ePoS:**
 - The introduction of biometric authentication and electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices has been instrumental in enhancing transparency and accountability within the PDS. Biometric authentication eliminates duplicate and ghost beneficiaries, ensuring that subsidies reach the intended recipients.
- **Empowering Beneficiaries through Information Dissemination:**
 - Technology has facilitated the creation of online platforms for the dissemination of PDS-related information. Beneficiaries can access crucial details such as entitlements, prices, and distribution schedules through websites and mobile applications.
- **Data-Driven Decision-Making with Analytics:**
 - The adoption of data analytics and machine learning has revolutionized the decision-making process in the PDS. These technologies enable authorities to predict demand patterns, optimize stock levels, and identify areas susceptible to leakages or inefficiencies.

Conclusion

Technology has become a cornerstone in the evolution of the Public Distribution System. From streamlining supply chain management to enhancing transparency and empowering beneficiaries, technology has significantly contributed to the efficiency and effectiveness of the PDS.

