



Organization and Working of Public Distribution System A study of Punjab

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India, Public Distribution System, Food grains, Punjab

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ABSTRACT *The Public Distribution System (PDS) is one of the important elements of the Govt's Food security System. PDS has been recognized as a permanent feature of the Indian economy for the supply and distribution of essential food grains like rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene, at reasonable prices to the vulnerable section of the society. Government of India's food grains management strategy towards ensuring food security involves procurement of food grains at remunerative prices from the growers, its storage and movement, maintenance of buffer stocks, budgetary support for price policy and ensuring availability of food grains to the public at reasonable prices. Punjab stands at second position at all India level in terms of food grain production. A well-organized Public Distribution System (PDS) is maintained in the Punjab State through network of 8040 Fair Price Shops and the total number of BPL families in the State is limited to 5.23 lakh. The present paper focuses on the Organization and Working of Public Distribution System in India with reference to Punjab.*

INTRODUCTION:

India is a vast country characterized by acute poverty and uneven distribution of national income. Due to scarcity of food and shortage of essential commodities coupled with galloping inflation has adversely affected the Indian economy. According to Economic survey 2012, India has become the fourth largest economy in the world due to a strong economic growth but still it has a low per capita income and an approximate 37.2 percent of Indian people live below the national poverty line (as per UNDP Report, 2012). It is extremely difficult for them to make both ends meet; as a result, poor people continue to be deprived of satisfying their basic needs. If the basic requirements of the poor are not fulfilled through proper distribution of food and essential commodities to the poor and vulnerable section of the society especially in rural areas, India's hope for the improvement of human life and achieving social justice will be a futile exercise.

The Ninth Plan recognizes the integral link between rapid economic growth and the quality of life of the mass of the people and ensured food and nutritional security for the vulnerable sections of society. To Provide "National Minimum level of living" to its people, has been one of the major objective of planning in India. It requires provision of needed quantum and quality of food grains. It has been felt necessary by our policy makers and government that there should be an efficient Public Distribution System (PDS).

According to Ruddar Dutt, "Public distribution system helps in ensuring supply of essential consumer goods of mass consumption to people at reasonable prices particular to weaker sections of society."

In India, there is network of more than 4.99 lakh Fair price Shops (ration Shops) one of the biggest Public Distribution System in the world and responsible for distributing to more than 160 million families commodities worth INR 15,000 crores. Every year government spends Rs.750 approx.billion

which is one of the biggest of its kind in the world. For the proper management and distribution of food grains the government of India has created Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Historical background of PDS (Public Distribution system)

The concept of Public Distribution System in the country was evolved around 1942 due to shortage of foodgrains during 2nd World War and Government intervention in distribution of food started. The drought and food shortages of the mid-sixties highlighted the need for strengthening and continuing with a system of food distribution and the PDS was made a universal scheme in the 1970s. There have been four phases, broadly speaking, in the history of the PDS in India (Swaminathan, 2000).

- **The First phase:** The first phase was from 1942 to 1960, a period when the system was expanded to cities.
- **The Second phase:** from 1960 to 1978, The government of India set up the Agricultural Prices Commission and the Food Corporation of India
- **The Third phase:** from 1978 to 1991, was marked by large-scale expansion of the PDS, supported by domestic procurement and stocks.
- **The Fourth phase:** from 1991 to the present, is one in which the policy of universal PDS has been replaced by a targeted policy.

Various schemes under PDS (Public Distribution System) In India

Over the years, the policy related to PDS has been revised to make it more efficient and targeted. In 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was introduced and then from June 1997, in a renewed attempt, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced to adopt the principle of targeting the 'poor in all areas'. Many initiatives were taken time to time relating to the quantity and price of food grains to different target group under the schemes of Public Distribution System has been explained in the following table.

Table-1
Various schemes under PDS

Name of scheme	Year of introduction	Coverage target group	Latest volume	Issue price (per kg)
PDS (Public Distribution System)	Up to 1992	Universal	-	W-2.34 * R-2.89**
RPDS (Revamped Public Distribution System)	1992	Backward Blocks	20k.g of foodgrain	W-2.80 R-3.77

TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System)	1997	Poor & non-poor	35 kg of foodgrain	BPL-W-2.50 PL-W-4.50 R- 3.50 R-7.00
AAY(Antyodaya Anna Yojana)	2000	Poorest of the poor	35 kg of foodgrain	W-2.00 R-3.00
APS(Annapurna)	2000	Indigent senior citizen	10 kg foodgrain	Free

Source: Economic survey, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department.

Note: *W-stands for wheat **R-stands for Rice

In India, it is a joint responsibility of Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration to ensure the smooth functioning of the public distribution system. While the responsibility of the Central Government is to procure, store and transport it from purchase points to Central godowns, the responsibility of State Government and Union Territory Administrations is to lift these commodities from the central godowns and distribute them to consumers through the network of Fair Price Shops. The department of food and public distribution is divided into two parts for the purchase and storage of food grain. FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA (FCI) was setup on 14th January 1965 having its headquarters at Chennai under the Food Corporations Act 1964.

Table:2

(Procurement and Offtake of Wheat and Rice (million tonnes))

Procurement	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Rice	28.8	34.1	32.03	34.2	18.1
Wheat	11.1	22.7	25.4	22.5	28.3
Total	39.9	56.8	57.4	56.7	46.4
Offtake from the central pool	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Rice	25.23	24.62	27.37	29.93	24.18
Wheat	12.20	14.87	22.34	23.07	17.80
Total	37.43	39.49	49.71	52.00	41.98

Source : Department of Food and Public Distribution.

The above table reveals that in the year 2011-12, 28.35 million tonnes of wheat was procured against 22.52 million tonnes in 2010-11. In the year 2011-12, 18.1 million tonnes of Rice was procured against 34.2 million tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year 2010-11. The total Procurement of wheat and rice was 39.9 million tonnes in the year 2007-08 and with the increase in procurement capacity of centre govt, in the year 2011-12, total procurement was 46.4 million tonnes. In the year 2011-12, total offtake of wheat and rice was 41.98 million tonnes against the 37.43 million tonnes in the year 2010-11. Procurement of foodgrains is mainly from states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

Public Distribution System and Food Subsidy

Provision of minimum nutritional support to the poor through subsidized foodgrains and ensuring price stability in different states are the twin objectives of the food security system. The government, therefore, continues to provide large and growing amounts of subsidy on foodgrains for distribution under the TPDS.

Table:3

Year	Food subsidy (crore)
2001-02	17,494.00
2002-03	24,176.45
2003-04	25,160.00
2004-05	25,746.45
2005-06	23,071.00
2006-07	23,827.59

2007-08	31,259.68
2008-09	43,668.08
2009-10	58,242.45
2010-11	62,929.56

(Quantum of Food Subsidies Released by Government)

Source : Department of Food & Public Distribution.

It is clear from above table that the Food subsidy in India accounts for about Rs.17,494 crore in the budget of 2001-02 & Rs.23,071 crore in the budget of 2005-06 and Rs.62,929 crore in the budget of 2010-11. With a network of more than 4.62 lakh fair price shops (FPS) distributing commodities worth more than Rs. 30,000 crore annually to about 160 million families, the PDS in India is largest distribution network of its kind in the world.

Public Distribution System in Punjab:

The state of Punjab the "Food Basket of India" produces about 60-70 percent of wheat and 40-50 percent rice of India. The State of Punjab has achieved highest productivity levels in the production of wheat and paddy. Punjab produced 15.7 million metric tonnes of wheat (2007-08), which is more than 20 percent of country's production and 10.5 million metric tons (2007-08) of rice accounting for 11 percent of country's production.

Punjab is a major procuring state for wheat and rice and had an opening stock of 6.5 million tonnes on April 2012. The state has an average 14 lakh tonnes of movement of foodgrain to the consuming states. The movement picked up this season due to higher demand from northeast and Maharashtra. The state has a stock of 16.5 million tonnes of wheat and 6.5 million of rice as of now. Better movement of foodgrain is required to clear the stock. Due to less movement of transport of grain in Punjab since 1997-2007 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrain damaged (3.95 lakh tone of rice, 1.83 lakh tones of wheat) which can feed 1 crore people for 1 year. Therefore need arises to study the reasons of not lifting the food grain well in time.

Government of Punjab is responsible for procurement of food grains and other essential commodities, maintenance of stocks and their storages, supply and delivery to the citizen through distribution centers at reasonable or subsidized rates, food security, license etc. In Punjab, the Department of Food & Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs, Punjab was set up in 1942 at Lahore to take care of food scarcities during the second world war. State trading in food grains was introduced in the year 1956 and the main office of the department was shifted to Chandigarh.

Among the major functions of the department are:

- Procurement, storage and transportation of food grains.
- Distribution of essential commodities to the economically weaker sections through the public distribution system
- Management and control of essential commodities in times of scarcity and natural disasters.
- Protection of consumer rights in conjunction with the consumer courts.

Ensuring correct weights and measures of consumer goods maintains a four-tier administrative set-up for PDS-state, district, block and sub-centre levels. State Civil Supplies Corporation (PSCSC), with a three-tier structure (head office, district and distribution centre) acts as the wholesale agent for lifting food grains from FCI godowns. PSCSC transports the lifted

grains to its distribution centres from where FPSs lift them on prepayment basis.

Punjab State Civil Supplies Corporation, PUNSUP, is one of the procuring agencies of Punjab Govt. for the purchase of wheat and paddy under the Central Pool as per target fixed by State Government on one hand and on the other to act as nodal agency for PDS besides other allied activities. PUNSUP, came into being on February 14, 1974, registered under the Companies Act, 1956, with the main motto to uplift the farming community on one hand by procuring their produce on Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government of India and on the other to provide food-grains & other essential commodities to the weaker section of the society on subsidized rates under Public Distribution System (PDS).

PROCUREMENT

The main objective of the Department of Food & Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs, Punjab, makes arrangements to procure wheat and rice at the minimum support prices fixed by the government of India for the central and state pool. The Government of Punjab contributes approximately 50 to 60% in wheat and 40 to 50% in rice to the Central Pool. The entire operation of procurement is carried out by the Department of Food & Civil supplies, along with other Procurement Agencies like FCI, Markfed, Punsup, PAIC and PSWC.

STORAGE

The purchased stocks are stored and they are transported to their final destinations. Food Corporation of India, Food and Supplies Department, Markfed Punjab, State Warehousing Corporation, Central Warehousing Corporation, Punjab State Civil supply Corporation and Punjab Agro Industries Corporation are the agencies responsible for the storage of foodgrains in the state.

DISTRIBUITION

The Department through a well regulated distribution points and large network of fair price shops carries out the Public Distribution System. The whole sale points are managed by Punjab Civil Supplies Corporation, the work of fair and just distribution of commodities under the PDS scheme is supervised by the Department of Food & Supplies.

Punjab stands at second position at all India level in terms of food grain production. The state's food grain production has grown from 25.32 million tonne in FY2001 to 27.22 million tonnes in FY2011, marking a growth of more than 7%.

Table:4
(Foodgrain production in Punjab vis à vis India)

Year (FY)	Punjab (Million Tonnes)	India (Million Tonnes)	Share of Punjab in India (%)
2001	25.32	196.81	12.86
2002	24.88	212.85	11.68
2003	23.49	174.78	13.43
2004	24.72	213.19	11.59
2005	25.67	198.36	12.94
2006	25.18	208.59	12.07
2007	25.31	217.28	11.64
2008	26.81	230.78	11.61
2009	27.32	234.47	11.65
2010	27.32	218.2	12.52
2011	27.22	241.56	11.26

Source: PHD Research Bureau, compiled from RBI, Ministry of Agriculture

Share of Punjab in food grain production has declined over the years. It has come down to around 11% in FY2011 from

around 13% in FY2001. The state is one of the largest producer of two crops i.e. wheat and rice in India. Production of rice in Punjab has grown from around 9 million tonnes in FY2001 to around 11 million tonnes in FY2011. However, production of wheat has remained stagnant at around 15 million tonnes during the last decade.

Review of Literature:

Numbers of studies have been done on PDS in India. The past studies were required to understanding the research problem and in carrying out the formulated work. Hence various research studies related to the Public distribution system are as following:

Singh (1979) observed in his study "Public Distribution System" that the Public Distribution System in India has become a regular and essential feature of food management. The social objective can be achieved only if the Central and State Governments assumes the responsibility for assuring availability of essential commodities and articles of mass consumption to common man at reasonable prices.

Dev(1996): revealed in his study that the improved food security to the household is important for a developing country like India where millions of poor suffer from persistent hunger and malnutrition. This study examined the poverty and food security problem with emphasis on PDS. He further explained that in order to provide food security to all the poor, there is a need for effective implementation of the PDS.

Reddy and kumar(1999) advocated in their study that substantial quantity of essential commodities are supplied to the people of rural and tribble areas comparatively at a cheaper price, under Public Distribution System (PDS).The Food Corporation of India is the apex agency for procuring essential commodities to the central pool at the price fixed by the government. These commodities are supplied at reasonable price to consumers.

Devasahaya(2001) suggested that under proper food management system, food security should go hand in hand with fair price for the farmers. Food security does not mean overflowing of FCI godowns and foodgrains procured and stored at high costs with some of them sub-standard and rotting. Food security actually means access to food grains to all sections of society at all time at affordable price. He emphasized on the important role of PDS in such food security.

Kulwant Singh Pathania (2005): evaluated in his study "Public Distribution System, Status, Challenges and Remedial strategies" a comprehensive investigation into the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the functioning of PDS in the state of Himachal Pradesh. He evaluated performance of the agencies involved in PDS.

Sujata Narwal (2001): revealed in her study "Management of Public Distribution System" analyses the policy framework and several managerial aspects of the PDS in Haryana. Further, evaluated the working of the system from the feed-back of consumers and beneficiaries, in term of their satisfaction level.

Parmod Kumar (2010): evaluated in his study "Targeted Public Distribution System: Performance and Inefficiencies" about the efficiency of the PDS system in six selected states Delhi, Uttarakhand, Kerela, Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. He explained in his study the selection process for the identification of BPL and AAY beneficiaries and investigated into the quality and quantity of foodgrains distributed through FPSs.

Objective, Sample Selection

- i) To study the Administration, Management and Implementation of Public Distribution System in India with Reference to Punjab.

ii) To define the functioning of various agencies and the various schemes under public distribution system in Punjab.

Research Methodology and findings

A well-organized Public Distribution System (PDS) is maintained in the Punjab State through network of 8040 Fair Price Shops. As on 31.03.2010 there were 27496752 cardholders. As per the present Govt. policy 350 ration cards are required for opening a fair price shop in the urban areas and 300 ration cards or 1500 units in the Rural areas. Whenever the number of ration cards exceeds 700 in urban areas a second ration depot can be opened in that area. The total number of BPL families in the State is limited to 5.23 lakh (3.44 lakh rural and 1.79 lakh urban) which is about 12% of the families in the State. In Punjab, 15.10 lakh families availing food subsidy under the Atta Dal scheme criterion annual income less than Rs. 30,000.

Targeted Public Distribution System:

The Govt. of India has introduced targeted public distribution system in the whole of the country from the month of June, 1997. The approval for implementation of TPDS in Punjab State has been accorded by the Govt. of India w.e.f. 1.10.1997. Government of India has recognized 4,68,000 BPL families in the State of Punjab which includes 179400 AAY families. During the year 2011-12 under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), 2,88,600 below poverty line (BPL) families were provided 10,098 tons of wheat per month at the scale of 35 kg of wheat per family@ 4.57per kg.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme (AAY): in 2011-12, 6280 tones of wheat was distributed amongst the poorest of the poor 1,79,400 Antyodaya families by the Deptt Of Food, Civ-

Table-: 6

(Storage Capacity of centre and state levels agencies (Lakh Tonne))

Name of Agency	1980-81	1990-91	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Food Corporation of India	51.80	49.62	63.18	76.30	83.22
Food and Supplies Department	26.07	4.10	11.79	18.70	18.38
Markfed Punjab	12.83	16.05	30.15	41.52	44.34
State Warehousing Corporation	8.60	22.21	52.74	19.54	16.57
Central Warehousing Corporation	4.05	6.06	7.09	2.28	1.29
Punjab State Civil supply Corporation	8.38	9.41	23.02	31.59	32.37
Marketing Board		2.41	0.33	0.12	0.24
Punjab Agro Industries Corporation			15.20	19.50	29.92
Total	111.73	109.86	203.50	209.55	226.33

Source : Department of Food & Public Distribution.

Through the Food Corporation of India, the Central Government has taken over the responsibility of procuring, storing, transporting and allocating the food grains to the State Governments. The State Governments are responsible for the operation of the system and it includes the identification of families below the poverty line, allocation of ration within the state, the issuing of ration cards and supervising the functions of FPS (fair Price Shops).

Table -7.

(Details of Fair Price Shops/No. of Ration Cards in the Punjab State in 2011)

Sr. No.	Name of District	Depots Rural	Depots Urban	Societies Rural	Societies Urban	Grand Total
1	Amritsar	804	698	42	0	1544
2	Barnala	203	96	24	2	325
3	Bathinda	371	129	55	0	555
4	Ferozepur	826	200	52	8	1086
5	Faridkot	252	85	18	2	357
6	F.Sahib	173	72	41	2	288
7	Gurdaspur	918	241	60	1	1220

il Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Punjab as per the direction of Government of India.

Atta Dal Scheme:

The State Government has launched Atta Dal Scheme w.e.f. 15.08.2007. A survey was conducted and about 14 lac economically weak families have been identified as beneficiaries of this scheme. These beneficiary families have been issued special blue ration cards for distribution of wheat and dals. Monthly checking norms have also been fixed for all the field staff in order to ensure that the beneficiaries get good quality food grains at the fixed rate as per their entitlement.

Table-5

(The scale & rates of distribution of wheat & Dals are as under)

Sr.No.	Commodity	Scale of Distribution	Rate (Rs. Per Kg.)
1	Wheat	7 kg per member and a maximum of 35 kg per family	Rs. 4.00
2	Dals	1 kg per member and a maximum of 4 kg per family	Rs. 20.00

Source : Department of Food & Public Distribution.

The state Government had procured & stored 4.28 lac MT wheat through PUNSUP & MARKFED during the RMS 2007-08. During the year 2011-12, 312037 MT of wheat & 27874 MT of dal were distribution to the beneficiaries.

PDS is currently operated as the State and the Central Government's joint responsibility. In the country many agencies are involved in the public distribution system both in the centre and state levels, the details is given below:

8	Hoshiarpur	325	137	123	5	590
9	Jalandhar	483	661	92	7	1243
10	Kapurthala	216	110	30	3	359
11	Ludhiana	539	1014	159	12	1724
12	Mansa	249	65	29	2	345
13	Moga	366	110	57	2	535
14	Muktsar	410	126	25	1	562
15	Mohali	208	86	20	2	316
16	Nawanshahar	219	40	77	2	338
17	Patiala	641	363	58	1	1063
18	Ropar	235	50	32	1	318
19	Sangrur	678	179	53	4	914
20	Taran Taran	620	84	50	2	756
	Total	8646	4546	1097	59	14348

Source: Department of Food & Civil Supplies, Punjab

The above table reveals that in the year 2011, there were 14348 fair price depots and consumer societies working in the state to provide essential commodities to the consumers. Out of these 13192 the depots and 1156 co-operative societies in Punjab. The maximum no of depots and societies, 1724 were in Ludhiana district and minimum no of depots and societies, 288 were in Fatehgarh district of Punjab.

Problems:

The problems of Public Distribution System have not been uniform in the country. In Punjab state, deficiencies regarding huge shortage of stocks, fake supply entries in ration cards, diversion of commodities for sale to open market and bogus ration cards are noted. PDS suffers from irregular and poor quality of food grain made available through Fair Price Shops (FPS). The position in rural areas in this respect is much worse than urban areas. The PDS in rural areas has not been given much attention. Most of the FPSs are economically non-viable which is the main reason for this low rate of commission. The storage facilities in India are not sufficient to cope with the problems. The Punjab state has a stock of 16.5 million tones of wheat and 6.5 million of rice as of now. Better movement of food grains is required to clear the stock. Due to less movement of transport of grain in Punjab since 1997-2007 10 lakh tones of food grains damaged (3.95 lakh tone of rice ,1.83 lakh tones of wheat) which can feed 1 crore people for 1 year. Therefore need arises to study the reasons of not lifting the food grain well in time. There is also a possibility of corruption at local level. The procurement system in India is not uniform. The distribution system of essential commodities is meager so it can hardly suffice the need of a family. And even for this the consumers have to make repeated visits to the ration shops in their respective areas. Most of the times they come back empty handed with assurance that ration would be made available to them in the next week.

Initiatives taken by Punjab State government to ensure the effective implementation of PDS

1. The State Government continued its vigil and control over hoarding, black marketing and speculation through "Consumer protection Cell".
2. Nigran committees also constituted by the Deptt. Of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs at district/ sub-division/block level to look after and to monitor the Public Distribution System to protect the interests of the needy consumers.
3. PUNSUP is also playing an important role in providing essential commodities. A well organized Public Distribution System was maintained in the state through a network of 15616 fair price shops during 2011-12.
4. In order to curb the diversion and leakage of PDS commodities, the State Govt. has made it Mandatory for all the wholesale dealers in the State to install Vehicle Tracking System(VTS) on the Trucks used for transportation of PDS. With the help of VTS, the movement of the truck is monitored to ensure that they don't deviate from their route. Any stoppage on the route is also recorded. Data on movement of PDS Trucks is available on the line for the general public and can be tracked by anyone.
5. During the year 2011-12 under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), 2,88,600 Below poverty Line (BPL) families were provided 10,098 tones of wheat per month at the Scale of 35 kg of wheat per family @ 4.57 per kg.

SUGGESTED REFORMS:

While every year, there are tonnes of excess food stocks lying at the FCI go-downs getting wasted and there lies another half of the population who die of starvation. This paradoxical situation of 'overflowing go-downs' and 'vulnerable sections of society not consuming adequate food' can be rectified to a certain extent by restructuring the Public Distribution System. So, There is a need to explore the possibility of introducing innovative ideas such as smart cards, debit cards/food credit, food stamps and decentralized procurement in order to eliminate hunger and make food available to the poor wherever they may be in a cost-effective manner. In cases where job opportunities as well as availability of grains are limited, food-for-work programs should be implemented. Finally, a minimal amount of social security must be provided to those who are old, sick or disabled and cannot take on work even if it is available. Such special schemes are required to ensure that the people do not go hungry.

V. Conclusion

This paper sheds light on various aspects of the Organisation and working of the Public Distribution System in India. Our analyses show that a PDS is a useful policy instrument, particularly when there is a shortage of food. PDS is providing very essential and important items to BPL households. Government of India made a shift in policy from universal rationing to targeting of poor customers by classifying the total population in to two: Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL). In Punjab, during the year 2011-12 under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), 2,88,600 below poverty line (BPL) families were provided 10,098 tons of wheat per month at the scale of 35 kg of wheat per family @ 4.57 per kg. Government of India's foodgrain management strategy is based on the twin pillars of procurement and distribution to ensure food security, and by simultaneously providing remunerative prices for foodgrains to farmers through the mechanism of the Minimum Support Price and also ensuring availability of foodgrains to the public at reasonable prices through the Public Distribution System. The state of Punjab a major contributory to the national pool for wheat and rice crops cropping pattern has been heavily slanted towards both these crops. Punjab stands at second position at all India level in terms of food grain production. The state's food grain production has grown from 25.32 million tonne in FY2001 to 27.22 million tonnes in FY2011, marking a growth of more than 7%. Share of Punjab in food grain production has come down to around 11% in FY2011 from around 13% in FY2001. The state is one of the largest producer of two crops i.e. wheat and rice in India. In Punjab, 76.5 percent of total highly subsidised food grains meant for BPL families through PDS was diverted to the market, and another 13 percent was diverted going to the APL families. Only 10.5 per cent reached the BPL families through TPDS. PDS has many leakages and weakness which are creating obstacles in the efficiency of PDS so for removing them or for the improvement of PDS procedural and policy reforms should be encouraged.

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