

Chapter 14 Conclusion

Public Distribution System is one of the most important functions which help in providing food security to the needy and the poorest sections of the society especially in the rural areas. However, performance of the PDS in the State for the last six years suffered due to non-finalisation of beneficiaries after conducting baseline survey to ascertain the actual number of households/beneficiaries, periodic revision of beneficiary list to weed out ineligible beneficiaries and addition of eligible beneficiaries. The Department also randomly issued ration cards. As a result, ration cards were misused. Short-allocation and short-lifting of foodgrains, delayed distribution of foodgrains, charging of higher rates, undue benefits to handling agents and inadequate infrastructure affected the implementation of PDS in the State. Implementation of convergence programmes in the State was not encouraging as the public were not aware of the schemes and also the Department allocated foodgrains to non-existent institutions, hostels and VGBs. Absence of quality control mechanism in the State also adversely affected the implementation of PDS as the quality and the scale of distribution were compromised. Mandatory inspections by district level officers, Vigilance Committees, Departmental Officers and the Special Area Officers were not carried out.

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