



# **HOME DELIVERY OF PDS RATION**

**SUB-DIVISION SHAHABAD**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the support and guidance of Sh. Mahavir Singh IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Haryana, School Education Department- the then nodal officer for control of COVID-19 who directed that in order to provide timely relief to the BPL/AAY families, the free ration announced by government for the month of April be distributed at their doorstep within a week's time.

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## Introduction

The worst affected by the COVID-19 induced lockdown in the country are the poor and the marginalized. Not being able to commute puts a halt in their daily process of earning a wage and purchasing the essentials. The government emphasized that efforts be taken to ensure food essentials are provided to the daily wage labourers, slum dwellers, unregistered workers, etc. It was also announced that the ration for BPL/AAY families would be provided free of cost for the month of April.

Shahabad Sub-Division administration realized that two aspects were crucial regarding distribution of ration- first that it needs to be distributed at the earliest possible to eliminate any and all hardships faced by the card-holders, and second that the ration needs to be delivered at the door step of every card-holder to avoid crowds at PDS depots during lockdown and social distancing is maintained in order to prevent the spread of the virus. A meeting was called under the SDM, Shahabad, to formulate a detailed plan. It was decided that the depot holders would hire vehicles for distributing ration at the doorstep and Sub-Division Administration will bear the cost of transportation to be incurred by depot holders for home delivery of ration.

### Scale of Distribution:

The target was to distribute all the entitlements of BPL/AAY card-holders in the district by the first week of April.

#### Shahabad Sub-Division card-holder data:

Total no. of depot holders in the Shahabad	93
a) AAY card-holders	1509
b) BPL card-holders	9539
c) OPH card-holders	11,888
<b>Total no. of card-holders</b>	<b>22,936</b>

#### Commodities distributed till date:

Commodity	Volume
Wheat	375899 (Kg)

## Planning and Execution:

The success of the strategy was made possible by three major factors to the process:



### ➤ Quick and Planned Action

Based on discussion with depot holders and other field staff, District Food & Supplies Controller (DFSC) decided to set precedence for the process of home delivery. Step-wise cadence was set for each of the official and depot holders in the meeting and district strategy was developed in the meeting.

- The depot holders would arrange different vehicles, including 2-wheelers for short distances, autorickshaws for large number of card holders in a single area and tractors/trolleys where the area to be covered was very large
- Two helpers per depot holder was assigned for the weighing and distribution of ration.
- Number of trips to be made were calculated on the basis of size. Some of the depot holders were allowed to deploy two vehicles in case of very high number of card-holders.
- The depot holders were not to wait for all the commodities to arrive for the distribution to start. They were to start the distribution of available commodities immediately.
- The permissions and temporary id cards required to commute during the lockdown were delivered to the depot holders by the field staff.



- Depot holders have used scooters, motorcycles, hand pushed rickshaws, pickup, tractors, auto-rickshaws, carriers, cars etc. for delivery of ration to people at their doorstep.

### ➤ Volunteering Spirit

- The DFSC motivated the depot holders and they agreed to bear the cost of transportation and vehicles as their contribution to the lockdown measures.



- The inspectors were directed to be in the field and to remain in touch with the depot holders at all times to monitor the progress and quickly solve challenges.

### Result and Impact:

In first four days of this month, home delivery of ration was provided to over 75% of card holders in the district. In one week, over 90% ration has been distributed. Through proper planning, seamless execution and participation of all stakeholders, District Sub-division, Shahabad has been ensuring the timely distribution of ration to all the card-holders and at the same time emphasizing on the importance of implementation of lockdown measures through door-step delivery of ration, so that the citizens *stay home and stay safe*.

