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CLASS-9<sup>TH</sup>

(BASED ON N C E R T PATTERN)

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ECONOMICS

## Food security in India

### Current Status of Public the Distribution System

Public Distribution System (PDS) is the most important step taken by the Government of India towards ensuring food security. In 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was introduced in the country. From June 1997, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced to adopt the principle of targeting the 'poor in all areas'. In 2000, two special schemes were launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS).

Over the year, the PDS proved to be the most effective instrument of government policy in stabilising prices and making food available to consumers at affordable prices. However, the Public Distribution System has faced severe criticism on several grounds. High level of buffer stocks of foodgrains is very undesirable and wasteful. In states such as Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh mainly two crops— wheat and rice— are grown. The intensive utilisation of water in the cultivation of rice has also led to environmental degradation and fall in the water level, threatening the sustainability of the agricultural development in these states.

PDS dealers started malpractice like diverting the grains to open market to get better margin, selling poor quality grains at ration shops, irregular opening of the shops, etc. In recent years, there is another factor that has led to the decline of the PDS. The three types of cards and the range of prices that you see today did not exist. Now, with TPDS of three different prices, any family above the poverty line gets very little discount at the ration shop. The price for APL families is almost as high as open market price, so there is little incentive for them to buy these items from the ration shop.

### Role of cooperatives in food security

In India, the cooperatives are also playing an important role in food security especially in the southern and western parts of the country. The cooperative societies set up

shops to sell low priced goods to poor people. Some of the examples of cooperative societies are Mother Dairy in Delhi, Amul from Gujarat, Academy of Development Science (ADS) in Maharashtra.

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