



‘Duare Ration’ Scheme: WB

Why in News

Recently, the **West Bengal** government launched the ‘**Duare Ration**’ (ration at doorstep) scheme for providing food grains under the [Public Distribution System \(PDS\)](#) at the doorstep for the entire population of the State.

- A mobile application, "**Khadya Sathi: Amar Ration Mobile App**" to help people apply for ration cards, was also launched.

Key Points

- Under the scheme, dealers would deliver ration at the doorstep of the beneficiaries.
- There are around **21000 rational dealers** in the state and the government would provide a subsidy of **Rs. 1 lakh to each dealer** to purchase a delivery vehicle.
- Ration dealers will also be allowed to recruit two assistants for which state would pay half their salaries.
- Each vehicle would be parked at a convenient location in a neighbourhood so that residents need not walk more than 500 metres to avail the ration.
- It is expected to **benefit around 10 crores of people of the state.**

Public Distribution System

- It is a **government managed process** of ensuring that food, staples, grains and other necessities are being provided to the poorer sections of the society in India.
- **Food and some non-food items** are provided at a subsidised rate through a chain of **Fair Price Shops (FPS) or Ration Shops.**
- The system is managed by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- The **state and the central governments work hand in hand** to provide food grains and other essential items at low prices for communities that are under and just above the poverty line.
 - The **Central Government** takes the responsibility to procure, preserve, transport and allocate the resources.
 - The **State Government** ensures the setting up of a network of recognition and availability of these rations via cards and shops.
 - The centre procures food grains from farmers at a [Minimum Support Price \(MSP\)](#) and sells it to states at central issue prices.
- Under the PDS, presently the commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene are being allocated to the States/UTs for distribution.
- Some States/UTs also distribute additional items of mass consumption through the PDS outlets such as pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, spices, etc.
- The [National Food Security Act, \(NFSA\) 2013](#) legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.

Source: TH

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