



Inclusion of the Disabled in National Food Security Act 2013

Why in News

The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** has asked State Governments/UTs to include all eligible **disabled persons** under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**.

Key Points

- The disabled persons should get their entitled quota of food grains under **NFSA** & **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** as per provisions of the Act.
 - Those not already covered should be issued fresh ration cards as per the eligibility criteria.
 - The disabled person should also be covered by States/UTs under **the priority households** as per the criteria of identification evolved by them.
 - **PMGKAY** is a part of **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP)** to help the poor fight the battle against **Covid-19**.
 - The scheme is aimed at providing each person who is covered under the **National Food Security Act** with an **additional 5 kg grains (wheat or rice)** for free, in **addition to the 5 kg of subsidised foodgrain** already provided through the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**.
 - The beneficiaries are also **entitled to 1 kg of pulse for free**, according to regional preferences.
- The **Section 10** of the NFSA provides for identification and coverage of persons under the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and the remaining households as **priority households** by the State Government.
 - Disability is one of the criteria for inclusion of beneficiaries under AAY households.
- The **Section 38** of the NFSA mandates that the Central Government may from time to time give directions to the State Governments for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act.
- The **Atmanirbhar Bharat Package** of the Government of India provides free food, along with other benefits, to the migrant labourers, who are not covered either under NFSA or any **States Scheme Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Cards (Under Economic Stimulus-II)**.
 - Hence, the disabled persons **without ration cards are also eligible** for getting benefits under Atmanirbhar Bharat package.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- **Notified on:** 10th September, 2013
- **Objective:** To provide **for food and nutritional security** in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- **Coverage:** **75%** of the rural population and upto **50%** of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**.

▪ **Eligibility:**

- **Priority Households** to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government.
- Households covered under existing **Antyodaya Anna Yojana**.

▪ **Provisions:**

- 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
- The existing AAY household will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
- **Meal and maternity benefit** of not less than Rs. 6,000 to **pregnant women and lactating mothers** during pregnancy and six months after the child birth,
- Meals to **children upto 14 years of age**.
- **Food security allowance** to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
- Setting up of **grievance redressal mechanisms** at the district and state level.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- It was launched in **December, 2000**.
- It involved identification of **one crore poorest of the poor families** from amongst the number of **Below Poverty Line** families covered under TPDS within the States and providing them food grains at a highly subsidized rate.
- Some target groups identified under AAY are:
 - **Landless agricultural labourers**, marginal farmers, rural **artisans/craftsmen** and persons earning their livelihood on a daily basis in the **informal sector**.
 - Households headed by **widows/terminally ill persons/disabled persons/senior citizens**.
 - Widows or terminally ill persons or **disabled persons** or senior citizens.
 - All **primitive tribal** households.

Source: PIB

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