

Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs

The Department of Food and Consumer Affairs is responsible for managing the food economy of India and implements various activities such as procurement, storage, and delivery of food items.

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in 2000 to address hunger among the poorest segment of the population below the poverty line (BPL). One crore of the poorest families were identified and provided with food grains at subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice. The AAY has since been expanded to cover 2.5 crore of the poorest households, including widows, terminally ill persons, disabled persons, and tribal households. The scale of the issue was increased from 25 kg per family per month to 35 kg per family per month starting in April 2002.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) is a food security scheme under Atmanirbhar Bharat to provide free food grains to the poor and migrants. Launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, it aims to ensure sufficient food for those in need and is considered the world's largest food security scheme. Eligible beneficiaries receive 5 kg of food grains and 1 kg of Gram per month. The scheme was initially implemented from April to November 2020, and then again in May and June 2021, with the estimated cost to the exchequer being around 25,000 crores. The scheme is part of the public distribution system (TPDS) and provides food to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority household (PHH) ration cardholders.

Price Stabilization Fund

Introduction

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has approved the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) as a Central Sector Scheme, with a corpus of Rs.500 crores.

Mission

To support market interventions for price control of perishable agri-horticultural commodities during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Objectives

- To promote **direct purchase from farmers /farmers' associations at farm gate/Mandi.**
- To **maintain a strategic buffer stock** that would discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.
- To **protect consumers** by supplying such commodities at reasonable prices through calibrated release of stock.

Working

- The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) will provide interest-free loans to State Governments, Union Territories, and Central agencies to support their procurement and distribution interventions for perishable commodities.
- The fund will initially be used for onion and potato only.

- The loan, along with matching funds from the State/UT, will form a revolving fund for future market interventions, approved by a State-level Committee.
- For North Eastern States, the State level corpus will comprise of 75% funds from the Centre and 25% from the State.
- The Central Government will share 50% of any losses (75% for NE states) at the time of settlement on 31st March, 2017.
- The Central Government intends to share the profits, if any, in the same ratio.
- The States can also request Central Agencies to operate on their behalf, supported by the State corpus.
- The Centre can also request Central Agencies, like SFAC and NAFED, to control prices of onions and potatoes.

Fund management:

- The Price Stabilization Fund will be centrally managed by a Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee (PSFMC) that will approve all proposals from State Governments and Central Agencies.
- The PSF will be kept in a Central Corpus Fund account opened by the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), which will act as the Fund Manager.
- Procurement of these commodities will be done directly from farmers or farmers' organizations at the farm gate/mandi and made available to consumers at a more reasonable price.

Budget Demand:

- Details of works costing Rs. 5.00 crore and above.
- Provision in the budget for central and centrally sponsored plan scheme estimates.
- Detailed provision object head-wise.
- Details of non-plan expenditure provision costing Rs. 25 lakh and above.
- Details showing grants-in-aid exceeding Rs. 5.00 lakh (recurring) or Rs. 10.00 lakh (non-recurring) to private institutions/organizations/individuals.
- Details of provision in budget estimates for payment of grants-in-aid to non-government bodies.
- Project-wise provision for expenditure on externally aided projects.