PREFACE

Public Distribution System has a crucial role to play in safeguarding the interest of the poor masses. The main objective of Public Distribution System are the elimination of the middlemen barriers and protection of the consumers from various malpractice's viz. adulteration, overpricing, profiteering, under weightment, black-marketing etc. PDS organisational network has been developed at the national level, down to the district level. However, it is found that at the national level PDS does not have either a minister or a full-fledged department. At the state level, there is a multiplicity of agencies with no clear cut demarcation of powers and functions. At the district level, the structure is weak and lacks adequate powers. Thus the organisational structure of the entire Public Distribution System is found to be weak and ineffective. The essential commodities are distributed through different agencies, which fall under either of the two categories – Private Licensed Ration Dealers or Cooperative Fair Price shops.

It is a fact that different committees and commission have been constituted to improve the working of PDS but no significant improvement has been noticed.

Against this backdrop, it is noted that no such studies have been carried out which give a clearcut picture of Public Distribution System in Himachal Pradesh except government records. In this investigation, an attempt has been made to evaluate the "Performance of Public Distribution System in Himachal Pradesh." The study also analyses and evaluates the
performance of existing PDS agencies undertaking the job. The management of PDS, the satisfaction of consumers with regard to the PDS items and public participation in the management of cooperative societies have also been studied.

The study has been arranged in eight chapters. The first chapter deals with *Meaning, Concept and Objectives of PDS*. *Growth of PDS in India* has also been included in this chapter. The second chapter presents *Review of Literature*. The third chapter outlines the *Methodology of Research after tracing out the need of Present Endeavor and Objectives and Limitations of the study*.

The Fourth chapter includes *Organisational Network of PDS, Role of State Civil Supplies Corporation, Performance of Cooperatives in PDS*. Under the fifth chapter, *Management of Public Distribution System* has been discussed. The Sixth Chapter contains the *Evaluation of PDS in H.P.* The analysis is based on Primary data. The seventh chapter deals with *the Participation of consumers in the Management of Cooperative Societies and Respondent’s Perception towards the Management of PDS items*. The last chapter presents the *Summary, Findings, Suggestions and Identification of Areas for Future Research*.

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