A Select Glossary of Terms

balwadi: a pre-school programme of education for children of urban low-income families
bidi: flavoured Indian cigarette
chakki: a flour mill
charas: hash/hashish
dalal: broker, middleman
dukaan: shop
girvi: mortgage
halwai: sweet shop
ilaqa: locality
jaali: counterfeit
janghatna: census
jhuggi: slum residence
katcha makaan: non-permanent housing structure
mohur: stamp
naqli: fake
patwari: village accountant
pradhan: leader of a basti or slum colony
pukka makaan: permanent housing structure
ren basera: night shelter
sahib: master, lord (colonial usage)
shamshan ghat: cremation ground
tehsildar: district official in charge of revenues and taxation
thakur: dominant feudal title
thana: police station
zamanat: bail

Units of Measurement

1 anna: 1/16 rupee
1 oz (1 ounce) = 28.349 grams
1 Maund = 40 Seer
1 Chattank = 5 Tola
1 Seer = 80 Tola
1 Tola = 11.66375 gram
List of Abbreviations

APL: Above the Poverty Line
ARA: Area Rationing Authority
ARD: Authorized Retail Distributor
BPL: Below the Poverty Line
BSP: Bahujan Samaj Party
CC: Chief Commissioner
CID: Central Investigation Department
CP: Connaught Place
CPWD: Central Public Works Department
DC: Deputy Commissioner
DCM: Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co. Ltd
DDA: Delhi Development Authority
DRO: District Rationing Officer
DSA: Delhi State Archives
ECA: Essential Commodities Act
EPW: Economic and Political Weekly
FCI: Food Corporation of India
FIR: First Information Report
FPS: Fair Price Shop
FSO: Food and Supply Officer
HT: Hindustan Times
ID: Identification
IT: Information Technology
JCM: Jan Chetna Manch
JJ: Jhuggi Jhonpri
JRC: Jhuggi Ration Card
LDC: Lower Division Clerk
MCD: Municipal Corporation of Delhi
MGNREGA: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MLA: Member of Legislative Assembly
NAI: National Archives of India
NCT: National Capital Territory
NOC: No Objection Certificate
PDS: Public Distribution System
PEPSU: Patiala and East Punjab States Union
PLA: Permanent Lok Adalat
PRA: Provincial Rationing Authority
PW: Price Waterhouse
RC: Registration Certificate
RSBY: Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
RTI: Right to Information
RWA: Residential Welfare Association
SSP: Senior Superintendent of Police
TDP: Telugu Desam Party
UID: Unique Identification
UT: Union Territory
YMCA: Young Men’s Christian Association
A Timeline of Major Acts and Orders

The Defence of India Act, 1915
The Motor Vehicle Rules, 1939
The Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941
Foodgrains Control Order, 1942
Tyre Rationing Order, 1942
The Textile Control Order, 1943
Tyre Rationing Order, 1944
The Essential Commodities Act, 1955
The Citizenship Act, 1955
Public Distribution System Control Order, 2001

Delhi-specific Acts and Orders
Delhi Rationing Order, 1944
Delhi Cloth Dealers Licensing Order, 1944
Delhi Specified Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Order, 1945
Delhi Cloth Rationing Order, 1945
Delhi Guest Control Order, 1945
Delhi Rationing (Limiting of Guests) Order, 1946
Delhi Rationing (Meals in Establishments) Order, 1946
Delhi Prevention of Begging Rules, 1960
The Delhi Rationing Regulations, 1965
Delhi Food (Restrictions on Service of Meals by Catering Establishments) Order, 1967
Delhi Cycle Tyres and Tubes Control Order, 1967
Delhi Specified Food Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Order, 1968
Delhi Guest Control Order, 1968
Delhi Food (Restriction on Service of Meals by Catering Establishments) Order, 1968
The Delhi Automobile Tyres and Tubes Control Order, 1969
Delhi Guest Control Order, 1972
Delhi Guest Control Order, 1976
Delhi Guest Control (Third Amendment) Order, 1977
Delhi (Display of Prices and Stocks of Scheduled Essential Commodities) Order, 1977
Delhi Essential Articles (Price Control) Order, 1977
Delhi Specified Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Order, 1981
Delhi Specified Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Amendment Order, 1999
Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006
List of Appendices

The Karachi ration card during the Second World War for cereal and kerosene oil issued sometime between 1940 and 1947.

Supplementary ration card for the heavy manual labourer in Ajmer (1944)

Application for an electricity connection in wartime Delhi, 1943

Cloth coupon in colonial India issued by the Food and Civil Supplies Commissioner sometime between 1940 and 1947 (state or province unknown)

The identity card termed V.P. Singh card or Lal Card issued in Delhi in 1990

The ration card as issued in 1989.