The first and foremost need of human being for the survival is food. To achieve food security is one of the biggest challenges for India even in the 21st century. India is home to largest number of hunger people in the world despite being one of the fast developing countries and having buffer stocks with FCI. It indicates flaws in public distribution system. The present study is an attempt in that direction through empirical analysis of PDS (in-kind transfer) and Dilli Annashree Yojana (cash transfer). Efforts have been made to find out the impact of two parallel and mutually exclusive distribution schemes on food security of BPL households in Delhi.

The study has been carried out by using both primary and secondary data. A well structure schedule has been used to collect the information for both PDS and Dilli Annashree Yojana covering all the nine districts of Delhi. The information about ration card, functioning of FPSs, leakages of SFAs, perception of the beneficiaries and performance of PDS over the span of previous five years have come up as important indicators of functioning of PDS in Delhi. Similarly information about the account of the beneficiaries, accessibility of banking services, banking habit among the people and purchasing power of the sanctioned amount are the main indicators of functioning of Dilli Annashree Yojana.

The present study reveals that PDS contributes in the social welfare of the people by providing cheap food at nominal price despite having minute leakage and some inconvenience in lifting of ration due to erratic supply of SFAs. One positive thing is that accessibility of SFAs has increase over time but quality of SFAs needs to be improved. But the beneficiaries under Dilli Annashree Yojana were not found satisfied with the scheme due to lack of aadhar linked bank account, lack of proper identification of beneficiaries, lack of banking habit among poor people, erratic transfer of amount and inadequate amount. If Dilli Annashree Yojana would be launched with advanced infrastructure, inclusive technology and indexed amount then the impacts of the scheme may be more positive.

(SUDESH RANI)