Chapter III:

Profile of Public Distribution schemes in India

Chapter third Deals with the overall Public Distribution system and the Functioning of this system with its relation to fair price shops in India. It also includes the standard of weights and measures used its administration and functioning, it also contains the administrative framework and the hierarchy at different levels is discussed. The chapter is divided into four parts i.e. A) State control and regulation Act of PDS, B) Public distribution System in India, C) Public distribution System at State level, D) Public Distribution System in Aurangabad District.

Public distribution system in India has been in operation, in some form or the other, since the outbreak of the second world war in 1939. Now it has gained ground throughout the country. The vastness of public distribution network demands an efficient administrative and organizational set-up along with sufficient and substantial financial and human resources. It also requires proper linkages between production, procurement, transportation, storage and distribution of essential items of mass consumption.
The organization and administration of public distribution system is the responsibility of central and state governments and both have to share responsibility to ensure smooth and fair operation of PDS.

**State Control and Regulation**

Legal frame-work of PDS: It is very difficult in the present complex economic system to protect the interest of consumers, specially of vulnerable sections without the legislative protection for which the government has developed a legal frame work for running the PDS on efficient lines. The government has taken various steps in this regard. The Essential Commodities Act,1955: The central government had enacted the Essential Commodities Act in 1955. This is the main legislation governing the production, procurement, price control and distribution of food grains and other essential commodities in India. This Act was amended in 1976 to ensure quick and more effective action against the anti-national and anti-social activities of traders such as those who indulge in black marketing, profiteering and hoarding of essential commodities. Under Section 5 of this Act, the central government is empowered to delegate powers conferred to state governments or to specific officers or
authority subordinate to a state government. Under this provision the power is given to state governments from time to time to regulate by licenses, permits or otherwise the storage, transportation, distribution, disposal, acquisition, use or consumption of various essential commodities.

On October 5, 1979 prevention of black marketing and maintenance of supplies of essential commodities ordinance was promulgated to check the rising prices and scarcity of essential commodities deliberately created by unscrupulous traders. This ordinance was replaced by an Act of Parliament in February 1980. This Act provided for preventive detention of persons who indulge in black marketing, profiteering, hoarding and other unethical trader practices in regard to essential items of mass consumption. Section 2(a) of this Act lists the following commodities in the categories of essentials: Automobile component/parts and accessories, cattle, fodder, coal, coke, cotton and woolen textiles, food-stuffs including oil seeds, oils, iron and steel manufacturing products thereof, oil cakes, paper board, paper news prints, petroleum and its products, raw cotton (ginned and unginned) and cotton seeds raw futs and straw board.
Standard of Weights and Measures

The directorate of weights and measures in the ministry of civil supplies is responsible for establishing standards of weights and measures based on the International System of units (SI) since its inception. It is also functioning as a nodal point for all activities relating to metric change and regulatory control on weights and measures. The enforcement of the standards, however, is done by the states/union territories in accordance with their own laws on the subject. With a view to bring uniformity in enforcement of the standards, The Constitution (Forty-second amendment) Act, 1976 had placed in the concurrent list the subject of enforcement of weights and measures and as are results of this amendment of the constitution, now the parliament can also make laws in this regards.

The National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, is the sole body which is responsible for the realization, establishment, custody, maintenance and updating of national standards of weights and measures.
The Government of India mint, Mumbai is responsible for the manufacture of standard measure and working standards. The government of India Ministry is prominent that it also caters to the needs for standards of several other countries in the south-east Asia region.

**Trade Marks and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.**

The Trade and Merchandise Marks Act was passed in 1958. It provides for the registration of fraudulent use of registered marks on merchandise. A statutory organization “Trade marks registry” was set-up for the administration and implementation of this act. It is under the control of the “Controller General of Parents, Design and Trade Marks.” Who is also registrar of trade marks for the purpose of the said act. The head of his of the “Trade marks registry is in Mumbai and it has three branch offices at Kolkata, Chennai and New Delhi for the defined territorial jurisdiction of each office. The register of trade marks is kept at the head office in Mumbai and copy thereof is also kept at each branch office.
Administrative Frame Work of PDS

Before 1974 the civil supplies functions was being looked after by the ministry of commerce at the central level. But in October 1974, a separate department of civil supplies and co-operation was created. The civil supplies function of the commerce ministry was then taken over by this department. Again in 1979, this department was redesigned as department of civil supplies and the department of co-operation was separated from it. At that time and integrated and co-ordinated policy for PDS was adopted which covered the following things under its wide umbrella:

1. Distribution of food grains and other essential articles of mass consumption at appropriate and reasonable prices to the common man specifically to the vulnerable sections of society.

2. A system of encouraging and monitoring the production of essential consumer articles and their rational distribution with minimum of formal controls on prices and distribution.
3. Building up of a viable and strong consumers co-operative mementos an indispensable and vital element in the consumer oriented distribution system to provide regular source of supply at strategic points/places at fair and reasonable prices.

The department of civil supplies deals with matters relating to internal trade and trade marks. Internal trade encompasses in it the availability of essential commodities (including administration of prevention of black marketing and maintenance of supplies of Essential commodities Act, 1980) monitoring of price, public distribution system, consumer protection, consumer co-operation, control of future trading and integrated management of the supplies, prices, and distribution of vanaspati, oil seeds vegetable oils, cakes and fats, trade marks, matters relating to weights and measures.

The ministry of civil supplies had identified seventeen essential commodities in the context of basic weaker and vulnerable sections of the Indian society and these could be broadly classified under the following three categories

1. In the first category food grains mainly wheat and rice (including coarse grains and pulses whenever necessary)sugar, standard cloth, vanaspati and edible oils, kerosene oil, soft cakes and salt are included.
2. In the second category cement for housing and agriculture needs, essential drugs, toilet and washing soaps, matches and soda are included.

3. The items included in the third category are baby food, tyres and tubes for cycles, scooters, buses and trucks and common footwear.

The organization and administration of the distribution outlets is the sole responsibility of the state governments and union territories. They, in turn, may nominate some agencies in the state and co-operative sectors to stock and distribution the essential commodities to fair price shops (FPS). It is the duty of concerning state government/union territory to ensure that the commodities for public distribution reach consumers in adequate quantities at right time and at pre-fixed prices determined from time to time by the government. The central government supplies these commodities to the state governments and union territories at the central issues prices. The state governments are authorised to add certain incidental charges to the central issue prices and may accordingly determine the final retail prices which will be charged for each commodity from the consumers of PDS.
The state government are also legally free to include other commodities for public distribution considered by them as essential for mass consumption in their region other than those identified by the central government. They can make necessary arrangements for the procurement of such commodities on their own or through the agencies nominated by them. At present many state governments are also selling pulses, vanaspati, toilet soaps, cycle tyres and tubes, torch sells and exercise books for students through their public distribution outlets. The administrative set-up of public distribution system can be discussed at following levels.

Besides these above mentioned reports, the district collector of each district writes a D.O.(Quasi-Government letter) to the secretary of Food and Civil Supplies Department of Government of Maharashtra in which following information is given:-

(1) The total number of fair price shops opened in the districts.
(2) Distribution and cancellation of ration cards in the districts.
(4) Allotment off –take and shortages of essential consumer articles and measures taken to overcome the shortages in these items.
(5) Development of infrastructure for the distribution of essential consumer articles in rural areas of the district and decision taken with regards to public distribution system in the district vigilance committee meeting.

On the basis of the above mentioned information following necessary action is initiated by the government to ensure that the essential commodities reach the consumers in adequate quantity on time and at reasonable prices:

(1) Opening up of fair shops.

(2) Keep watch on weekly market retail and wholesale prices of 23 essential consumer commodities and their fluctuation.

**Administrative Set-up at the Central Government Level**

The department of civil supplies has been redesignated as Ministry of civil Supplies vide President of India order December No.CD-574/80 I (B), dated 22.7.1980.[9] The Ministry is responsible for innumerable activities connected directly or indirectly with the public distribution system. These activities, as per the Act of 1980, include monitoring of prices and supply position of essential commodities.
Administration and prevention of black marketing and maintenance of supplies of essential commodities, public distribution system, consumer protection and consumer co-operatives. Integrated management of supply, price and distribution of vanaspati, oil seeds, vegetable oils, cakes and fats. Control of futures trading and matters relating to weights and measures. The Bureau of Indian standards and many others. The list is not exhaustive but suggestive only. The Minister of civil supplies at the central level is over-all in charge of civil supplies including public distribution system. He is assisted in his work by a Deputy Minister. The secretary to the government is the chief administrative head of the civil supplies department and he is assisted by a staff of 188 including 4 joint secretaries.

As regards the management of different tasks assigned to this Ministry, it is assisted by the Forward Markets Commission, Trade Marks Registry, The Bureau of Indian standards, The Directorate of weights and Measures and the Directorate of vanaspati, vegetable oils and fats. At present, the Ministry of State (Independent charge) has been assigned the work of civil supplies department including the work of public distribution system. The organization set up PDS at the central level has been shown Below:
Chart-1

Organizational Set-up (Central Level)

Minister of Civil Supplies

Deputy Minister of Civil Supplies

Secretary to the Govt. (Civil Supplies)

Joint Secretaries

Gazetted Officers

Other Staff (140)
Table No.3.1

Statement Indicating State wise number of household BPL, Fair Price shop and Ration Cards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>States</th>
<th>Projected Population in 2000 (in Lakhs)</th>
<th>No. of Fair Price Shops</th>
<th>BPL</th>
<th>APL</th>
<th>AAY</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>No. of Cards per FPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>754.66</td>
<td>40691</td>
<td>128.12</td>
<td>58.72</td>
<td>12.34</td>
<td>199.18</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>11.92</td>
<td>1444</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>2.68</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>261.96</td>
<td>33229</td>
<td>14.79</td>
<td>34.63</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>53.54</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>731.11</td>
<td>41818</td>
<td>61.64</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>123.84</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>249.25</td>
<td>7869</td>
<td>13.48</td>
<td>25.94</td>
<td>5.69</td>
<td>45.11</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>139.64</td>
<td>3126</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>35.66</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>40.01</td>
<td>1280</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>15.95</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>642</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gujrat</td>
<td>482.52</td>
<td>14318</td>
<td>41.14</td>
<td>86.94</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>133.23</td>
<td>931</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>198.31</td>
<td>7490</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>36.88</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>601</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>67.11</td>
<td>4105</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<td>1.18</td>
<td>13.47</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>99.45</td>
<td>3927</td>
<td>5.67</td>
<td>10.94</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>466</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>268.31</td>
<td>14395</td>
<td>16.68</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>7.27</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>520.91</td>
<td>20672</td>
<td>61.87</td>
<td>42.62</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>113.99</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>322.62</td>
<td>14141</td>
<td>15.56</td>
<td>44.91</td>
<td>4.66</td>
<td>65.13</td>
<td>461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A study of Public Distribution Schemes (P.D.S.)
With Special reference to organisation and working of Fair price shops in Aurangabad District.

| No | State          | APL | BPL | APL/BPL | BPL/BPL | APL/AAY | BPL/AAY | APL/BPL | BPL/BPL | APL/AAY | BPL/AAY |
|----|----------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| 15 | Madhya Pradesh | 548.22 | 18688 | 42.56 | 82.27 | 9.49 | 134.32 | 719 |
| 16 | Maharashtra    | 911.15 | 49921 | 54 | 147.38 | 19.6 | 220.98 | 443 |
| 17 | Manipur        | 25.18 | 2551 | 1.02 | 1.89 | 0.26 | 3.17 | 124 |
| 18 | Meghalaya      | 24.34 | 4302 | 1.41 | 2.66 | 0.42 | 4.49 | 104 |
| 19 | Mizoram        | 9.52 | 1026 | 0.48 | 1.62 | 0.21 | 2.31 | 225 |
| 20 | Nagaland       | 16.84 | 401 | 0.96 | 1.83 | 0.28 | 3.07 | 766 |
| 21 | Orissa         | 358.57 | 25186 | 39 | 30.61 | 9.49 | 79.1 | 314 |
| 22 | Punjab         | 235.36 | 13874 | 6.42 | 48.01 | 0.72 | 55.15 | 398 |
| 23 | Rajasthan      | 535.59 | 20884 | 15.97 | 104.1 | 7.17 | 127.24 | 609 |
| 24 | Sikkim         | 5.59 | 1071 | 0.33 | 0.89 | 0.1 | 1.32 | 123 |
| 25 | Tamilnadu      | 617.74 | 27995 | * | 153.78 | 14.52 | 168.3 | 601 |
| 26 | Tripura        | 37.82 | 1445 | 2.27 | 4.32 | 0.68 | 7.27 | 503 |
| 27 | Uttar Pradesh  | 1626.04 | 74788 | 74.37 | 274 | 32.42 | 380.79 | 509 |
| 28 | Uttaranchal    | 75.84 | 7332 | 4.22 | 16.99 | 0.76 | 21.97 | 300 |
| 29 | West Bengal    | 790.06 | 20424 | 34.9 | 113.58 | 12.39 | 160.87 | 788 |
| 30 | A&N Islands    | 3.86 | 488 | 0.11 | 0.73 | 0.04 | 0.88 | 180 |
| 31 | Chandigarh     | 8.88 | 26 | 0.04 | 2.19 | 0.03 | 2.26 | 8692 |
| 32 | D&N Haveli     | 1.9 | 78 | 0.13 | 0.28 | 0.03 | 0.44 | 564 |
| 33 | Daman&Diu      | 1.4 | 51 | 0.04 | 0.25 | 0.01 | 0.3 | 588 |
| 34 | Lakshdweep     | 0.71 | 35 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.004 | 0.144 | 411 |
| 35 | Pondichery     | 11.11 | 410 | 0.78 | 1.82 | 0.19 | 2.79 | 680 |
| 36 | Total          | 9969.44 | 478724 | 650.82 | 1440.18 | 173.09 | 2264.094 | 24876 |

(Source:- Dept of Food and Public distribution)

Note:-
1. Separate figures of APL/BPL cards in Tamil Nadu are not available as there is no categorization on the basis of APL/BPL in the State.
2. AAY figures are as on 11.2.05 BPL figures have been reduced correspondingly.
Administrative Set-up at the State Level

As stated earlier, the organization and administration of public distribution outlets is the responsibility of the state governments and union territory administration. Hence, the smooth and successful operation of PDS depends on the organizational and administrative set-up built up by the state governments. The administrative set-up generally in all states of India is of two-tier nature, one at the state level and other at the district level. At the state level, generally the PDS is administered either by a secretary assisted by commissioner of food and civil supplies as in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu or a secretary-cum-commissioner, food and civil supplies as in Bihar, Punjab, UP, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan or a director of food and civil supplies as in Haryana, MP, West Bengal, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, etc.

The secretary/commissioner is at the helm of affairs. Therefore, he is responsible for formulation, administration and execution of the state’s policy for procurement and distribution of essential commodities under public distribution. The secretary/commissioner performs his duties with the help of a team of officers drawn from the state administrative cadre and the department
of the civil supplies of the state concerned. At the district level (in almost all states) the district collector is overall incharge of public distribution. He has wide powers to takes any action including punitive action against the defaulting fair price shop dealers and licensed dealers. The food and Civil Supplies department is entrusted with the power of distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities through network of fair price shops and licensed private dealers in each district for actual operation of PDS. Except in Manipur and Tripura there is a separate department for PDS namely district supply office, in each directorate of Food and Civil Supplies directly allot quotes for urban and rural areas public distribution outlets. The directorate directly looks after the administration in urban areas, While revenue officials the entrusted with the supervision of PDS in Rural areas.

The states have also been taking various steps to strengthen the basic organization structure of the public distribution system. Thirteen states and the union territory of Delhi so far have set-up states civil supplies corporation. For setting up these corporations central assistance under a plan scheme was made available to North-Eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman Nicobar Islands. Those states which have large inaccessible areas are also provided central help for construction of godowns.

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Hence, the tasks of procurement, storage and movement within the states have to be performed by the Food and Civil Supplies department.

The basic issues involved at the state level in the operation of PDS are of two categories (i) Macro level issues (ii) Micro level issues. The macro level issues are related to decision-making on different aspects of overall management of PDS in the state as a whole and the micro level issues are related to the actual functioning of distribution system in each district and tehsil within the state territory. The macro level issues by and large are having a bearing on the strategic decision-making and policy formulation at the state levels while the Micro level issues centre mainly round the effective management and supervision of the system of retail outlets at the district and the tehsil level.
A study of Public Distribution Schemes (P.D.S.)
With Special reference to organisation and working of
Fair price shops in Aurangabad District.

Table No.3.2

Administrative Set-up in Maharashtra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Projected Population in 2000 (in Lakhs)</th>
<th>No. of Fair Price Shops</th>
<th>BPL (in Lakhs)</th>
<th>APL (in Lakhs)</th>
<th>AAY (in Lakhs)</th>
<th>Total (in Lakhs)</th>
<th>No. of Cards per FPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>911.15</td>
<td>49921</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>147.38</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>220.98</td>
<td>443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source:- Dept of Food and Public distribution (2007-2008)

The Department of Food and Civil Supplies Government of Maharashtra is mainly responsible for all the Strategic decision making, policy formulation including Planning, Monitoring and regulation and control of the public distribution system in the state. As mentioned earlier it keeps a watch on the price trends of are essential commodities in the free market and ensures their adequate availability to the common people at reasonable prices, more specifically to the vulnerable sections of the society in the state. For conducting these important tasks the department under takes various formal and informal measures according to the need of the hour.
The evolution and development of organizational and administrative structure of PDS in the state should be viewed in the context of changing administrative political and socio-economic backward of the state. Likewise other states Maharashtra being one of prosperous and progressive state of India, the administrative set-up of PDS in Maharashtra is based on two-tier system.

(1) At the state Head District Level and,

(2) At the District Level.

**Administrative set-up in Maharashtra at the State Head Quarter level:-**

The department of “Food and civil Supplies “ is an apex administrative body at the state level which is headed by Minister of Food and Civil Supplies with cabinet Rank. He is assisted by Minister of state for Food and civil Supplies he is also sometimes gives status of Minister state independent charge of Food and Civil Supplies.
Chart No.2

Administrative set-up in Maharashtra.

Administrative Setup of food & civil supplies department at the State HQ level

Minister for food & Civil Supplies

State minister for food & Civil Supplies

Principal Sectary food & Civil Supplies

Dy Commissioner food & Civil Supplies

Additional collector food & Civil Supplies

District Supply officer
The principal secretary of Food and Civil Supplies department government of Maharashtra is the apex official in charge of affairs of food and civil supplies in Maharashtra. His primary job includes planning with the help of District machinery after gathering information and then distribution or allotment of quotas to different districts of Maharashtra as per the requirements. He is the connecting link between the Ministers and the district Machinery. Hence, he keep a strict vigil on implementation of the various plans enacted by the government from time to time. Principal secretary food and civil supplies Monitors the functioning of the state Machinery strictly so that artificial scarcity, price rise and also the stray incidents of Malnutrition which occurs in the state and are brought to light by hyper active media sees that they are attend in time.

Deputy Commissioner Food and civil supplies is the overall in charge of the Administrative machinery at the district level. Of course under the supervision of the divisional commissioner and District collector with the help of an additional collector sees that the district Machinery is running smoothly with the smooth functioning of procurement and distribution of commodities through public distribution system running effectively and uninterrupted.
Additional collector is in the supervisory position at district level where he over links the functioning of PDS at district level and reports to the Deputy Commissioner. He is responsible for the district which is under his jurisdiction.

District supply officer DSO is the district level in charge of the Public Distribution System as regards distribution of quotas is respective district of Maharashtra. DSO According to the configuration of the beneficiaries of PDS in the district allot the respective quotas under each head. He keeps in mind the number of beneficiaries in each category and the schemes for the particular category while allotting the quotas for the same.

The department of food and civil supplies of government of Maharashtra from operational point of view is further divided into five main branches i.e. Administration Branch, Accounts Branch, Procurement Broad Statistical Branch and Distribution Branch.

The administration branch deals with establishment, judicial and legal functions, arrangements for meetings, preparation of answers for parliamentary and state Assembly questions, printing and issue of ration cards and purchase of office equipments, furniture, stationary etc. The Accounts branch is concerned with the preparation of budgets,
obtaining subsidy from the central government, pricing of essential commodities under PDS and payment of the salary to the staff.

The Procurement Branch is responsible for masters relating to procurement under support price or levy price operations.

The statistical Branch is entrusted with the work of collecting and computing of data along with the preparation of reports. The main function of the distribution Branch is to look after the functions receiving allotments, making sub-Allocation to different District here of, collecting factual position about actual amount of distribution through public distribution outlets including fair price hops and preparation of demand projection for submission to the central government for getting sufficient quantum of future allotments.

The Main responsibility of the department of Food and Civil Supplies is to ensure stability in price and adequate availability of essential commodities throughout the state. The support price operational and the operation of Public Distribution System are other important functions of this department. Presently the department of food and civil supplies is responsible for the following activities /tasks:-
(1) Preparation of Demand Projection for allotment of commodities for submission to the central Government.

(2) Fixation of prices of the commodities under Public Distribution System according to the direction and norms of the central Government.

(3) Sub-Allotment of Commodities to different districts from the allotment received from the central government.

(4) Printing of Ration cards and issuing them to the District Supply office.

(5) Keeping proper supervision and monitoring over the distribution of essential commodities and issuing corrective instructions where ever and when ever necessary.

(6) Preparing evaluation /Performance reports according to the requirements of the central government.
(7) Co-ordination of activities of different agencies involved directly in regards to the various activities of Public Distribution System.

(8) Control and Regulation of the Public Distribution System through proper and correct feedback of information and timely corrective follow up action.

**Administrative Set-up at District Level:**

At the District Level the District collector by virtue of his post is overall incharge of the food and civil supplies Administration. He is supported by requisite field staff in discharging his responsibilities with regards to the Public Distribution work.
Table No.3.3

PDS at a Glance in Aurangabad District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Name of taluka</th>
<th>Total no of fair price shops</th>
<th>Total no of Consumers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aurangabad (Urban)</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>902179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aurangabad (Rurual)</td>
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<td>263388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Paithan</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>287356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Phulambri</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sillod</td>
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<td>Kannad</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Vaijapur</td>
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<td>Gangapur</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1785</td>
<td>2897013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: - District Supply Office, Aurangabad.(2006-2007)
Chart No 3

Administrative Set-up at District Level

Organizational Structure of Food & civil Supplies Department at District Level

- District collector
- Dy. Commissioner (F & C.S)
- Dy. Collector (F & C.S)
- District supply officer
- Asstt.D.S.O.
- District I O C S
- Inspector
- FGDO
- Taluqa I O C S
At the district level all important functions of food and civil administration are functions of food and civil supplies administration are performed by the DSO. The important functions are:-

(1) To organize distribution of essential Commodities (Wheat, Rice, Kerosene, Sugar etc) through fair price shops and other licensed dealers.

(2) To select fair price shops dealers in the district.

(3) To issue Ration Card to the households of the district.

(4) To inspect fair shops on at regular time intervals.

(5) To attend to public complaints and quarries and maintain proper licensed with fair price shop dealers and consumers with the object of minimizing the problems of both consumers and dealers.
(6) To keep watch and vigilance over the free market to ensure adequate availability of are essential commodities at fair prices for protecting the interest of the consumers.

(7) To approach the state government for adequate supplies of are essential commodities especially when they are not available easily, timely and freely.

(8) To take necessary action against black-Marketers profiteers and hoarders of essential commodities so as to protect the interest of vulnerable sections of society against rising prices and shortages of food needed for them.

Likewise at the state level, the department of Food and Civil supplies is divided into five branches, namely administration branch, Accounts Branch, Ration Card Branch, Distribution Branch and enforcement Branch. The Administration branch is entrusted with the tasks of the appointment of fair price shop dealers, establishment, legal and judicial functions, compilation of reports, their submission to the state government. The accounts Branch deals with the fixation of retail price of kerosene, fixation of transportation charges for food grains,
payments of salary etc. The ration cards branch is concerned with the preparation and essential of ration cards to the households of the district. The distribution branch is responsible for the allotment and distribution of all essential commodities under public distribution coverage. The enforcement branch looks after the supervision and control work of the movement, distribution and functioning of fair price shops within the jurisdiction of the district concerned. The district supply offices has to be in touch with the work of all branches which are under his overall supervision at the district level.

Public distribution system in India is a boon to the down trodden and hence it popularity is still very much there with India performing the task of facilitating State by undertaking public distribution system at various level such as central, State, District, Taluka level of distribution through Fair price shops. The organization of machinery is in a 2 tire system one implementing the planning of the government and the other checking whether the work of distribution is going on as per the plan and schedule.
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