

◉ Food Management

The instruments used for food management are procurement at MSP from farmers and sale at Central Issue Price (CIP) under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The nodal agency which undertakes procurement, distribution and storage of food grains is the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

■ Fortification of Rice and its Distribution

- The Government of India approved the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme 'Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System' for a period of 3 years beginning 2019-20.
- The Government has started distributing fortified rice under ICDS Scheme and PM Poshan schemes across the country during 2021-22 in an effort to fight malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among pregnant women, lactating mothers, children etc.

■ One Nation One Ration Card

Through this system migratory beneficiaries shall be able to access their food security entitlements from any fair price shop (FPS) of their choice by using their same ration card after biometric/Aadhaar authentication on electronic Point of Sale devices at the FPS.

■ Open Market Sale Scheme

- FCI on the instructions from the Government sells excess stocks out of Central Pool through Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] in the open market from time to time at predetermined prices called reserve prices.
- Under the OMSS (D) 2020-21 policy, a special dispensation for supply of foodgrains is made to all the NGOs engaged in relief or running community kitchens for migrant labourers.

■ Food Subsidy

- The difference between the **per quintal economic cost** and the per quintal **Central Issue Price (CIP)** gives the quantum of per quintal food subsidy.
- The **economic cost of wheat** has increased from Rs 1908.32 per quintal in 2013-14 to ₹ 2993.80 per quintal in 2021-22.
- The **economic cost of rice** has increased from Rs 2615.51 per quintal in 2013-14 to ₹ 4293.79 per quintal in 2021-22.
- However, as a pro-poor measure, the CIPs for NFSA beneficiaries have not been revised since the commencement of the NFSA.

■ Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) Program

The Government has now set 20 % ethanol blending target for mixing ethanol with petrol to be achieved by 2025. It is estimated that the blending target at 10 % would be achieved during 2022.

◉ Fertilizers

- New Urea Policy-2015 has been notified with the objectives of maximizing indigenous production, promoting energy efficiency in production, and rationalizing subsidy burden on the government. Government has made it mandatory for all the domestic producers of urea to produce only neem coated urea.
- Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme where subsidy is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic(P&K) fertilizers depending upon its nutrient content.