

## HILL TRANSPORT SUBSIDY SCHEME (HTS) :

The HTS Scheme is meant for the States/ UTs, which are predominantly hilly with little or no railways linkage and poor road communications.

In such States/UTs the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is required to open godowns at Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) wherever possible, or reimburse the State Governments/UTs the cost of transportation of foodgrains, on actual basis, for lifting of foodgrains from base depots of FCI to the designated PDCs.

The purpose of declaring important distributing centres as PDCs is to mitigate the burden of heavy cost of road transportation to the people in the hilly areas. In predominantly hilly States with difficult and inaccessible terrain, transportation cost of moving grains by road to the interior is heavy and such cost gets added to the Central Issue Price of the foodgrains delivered to consumer.

The following minimum criteria are required for declaration of locations as PDCs in the hilly States covered under HTS Scheme:-

1. For Snow Bound Areas – the place should be located at a minimum distance of 25 kms. from existing PDCs/FCI base depots,
2. For Other Hilly Areas – the place should be located at a distance of more than 50 kms. from the existing PDCs/FCI base depots and should be a Sub-Divisional Headquarter.

The Scheme is at present applicable to the following States/UTs :-

Arunachal Pradesh	Mizoram
Himachal Pradesh	Sikkim
Jammu & Kashmir	Tripura
Manipur	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Meghalaya	Lakshadweep
Nagaland	