

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF June, 2018

- Under the reforms initiative in PDS, a total of 3,33,786 (63.10%) Fair Price Shops (FPSs) now stand automated with Aadhaar linked bio-metric authentication facilities. At present, Aadhaar seeding with ration cards stands about 83.53% (at least one member of family) and beneficiary wise Aadhaar seeding in ration card data stands about 73.67 % across the country.
- The stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool continue to remain comfortable at 650.53 LMT (232.52 LMT of rice and 418.01 LMT of wheat) as on 01.07.2018.
- The Department is in the process of formulation of policy for sale of excess stock of wheat and rice in the open market through Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) {OMSS(D)} during 2018-19. The Committee of Secretaries constituted for this purpose has made its recommendations in its meeting held on 21.05.2018. The recommendations of the committee, after approval of Hon'ble Minister (CA, F&PD), has been sent to the Ministry of Finance on 29.06.2018 for obtaining final approval of Hon'ble Finance Minister.
- During ongoing Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2017-18, in Eastern States, a quantity of 58.73 LMT of paddy in terms of rice has been procured by Govt. agencies as on 02.07.2018 against 56.51 Lakh MT during corresponding period of KMS 2016-17.
- Procurement in other parts of the country has been brisk in the current KMS 2017-18, wherein 362.25 lakh MT of rice in form of paddy (as on 05.07.2018) has already been procured against the target of 430 lakh MT. During RMS 2018-19, 355.22 LMT of wheat has already been procured (till 05.07.2018) against the target of 320 LMT.
- As far as construction of modern Silos is concerned, Silo operators have been selected for a total capacity of 44 LMT at 84 locations out of which 6.25 LMT silos have been completed at 13 locations. Further, tenders for 5.50 LMT have been issued and locations have been identified for 7.50 LMT.
- For the sugar season 2017-18, as on 30.06.2018, out of total payable cane price of Rs. 84302 crore, an amount of Rs. 64779 crore has been paid and cane dues of Rs. 19523 crore is pending.
- Pursuant to the decisions taken by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 06.06.2018 regarding interventions to deal with the current crisis

in the sugar sector, Department of Food & Public Distribution has issued following orders/notifications on 07.06.2018:

- a) Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018
 - b) Order under the provisions of the Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018 directing that no producer of sugar shall sell white/refined sugar at factory gate at a rate below Rs. 29/kg till further orders;
 - c) Order directing that no producer of sugar shall hold the quantity of white/refined sugar stock at the end of the each month as specified by Government every month.
 - d) Order directing the quantity of white/refined sugar stock that every producer of sugar shall hold at the end of June, 2018 and July, 2018.
- A scheme for creation and maintenance of Buffer Stock of 30 Lakh MT of sugar by the sugar mills in the country for the one year with effect from 1st July, 2018 has been notified on 15th June, 2018 to improve the liquidity of the Sugar Industry, enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers and to stabilize domestic sugar price. For the Buffer Stock about Rs. 1175 crore would be reimbursed towards interest charges and insurance and storage charges. Allocation of Buffer stock has also been issued vide order dated 29.6.2018.
- In order to help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, the Government has notified a scheme on 09.05.2018 to provide financial assistance @ Rs.5.50 per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18 to sugar mills to offset cost of cane. The Government vide notification dated 25.6.2018 has further amended the eligibility condition under para 2(c) of the above said notification by giving relaxation in condition of stock held by producer of sugar during the months of February and March, 2018.
