

MONTHLY MONITORING OF RIGHT TO FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2013

There are four rights given under this Act, which have to be monitored:

1. Distribution of subsidised food to eligible families every month.
2. Free midday meals to children through Anganwadis and schools.
3. Free meals to pregnant and lactating mothers through Anganwadis.
4. If needed the Anganwadi shall also provide meals to severely malnourished children.

1. Distribution of subsidised food to eligible families every month

The government shall prepare a list of eligible families as per the Act and display the list prominently. 75% of the rural families will be covered under the Act. Only families included in the list will be entitled to subsidised food. Antodaya families will also be entitled to benefits under this Act.

The distribution of food is through the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the PDS shall display stock in hand as well as keep records of the families on its list and the food distributed to each family each month. The distribution shall be completed by the 15th of each month. All PDS records can be checked by the mandal leaders. Families can also be interviewed to confirm what they have received, and whether they are happy with the quality of food being supplied.

The oldest woman in the family will be the food security card holder, only if there are no women in the family will the oldest man be appointed as the food card holder. Food security is women's concern. Each eligible family is entitled to the following each month:

- a. 4 kgs of rice per member at a price no higher than Rs. 3 per kg.
- b. 1 kg wheat flour at Rs. 18 per kg.
- c. 1 kg dal at Rs. 50 per kg.
- d. They are also entitled to 1 litre palm oil, 1 kg salt, 500 gms sugar 250 gms chilli powder, 100 gms turmeric powder, 500 gms tamarind, and kerosene.

The Mandal leaders must question the Shramik SHakti Sanghatana group leaders during each GPS meeting and confirm that these items are being received by the families each month. Antodaya families are entitled to 35 kgs of grain each month.

Note: If food grains are not available the State Govt. shall pay food security allowance to each card holder as grain has not been provided. Cash payment will be as per central Government rule.

2. Free midday meals to children through Anganwadis and schools

Anganwadis: Mothers of children of 6 months to 3 years age will be entitled to take home ration having the following nutritional value 500 Kcal and 12 to 15 gms proteins. Interview mothers with children of 6 months to 3 years age in the village to confirm that they are getting the entitled ration every day. Every interview should be recorded in a note book: Date—Village---name of the mother ---her comments. Children of 3 to 6 years age will be provided morning snack and hot cooked meal every day, the nutritional value will be the same as above. Visit each Anganwadi and check if the practice is as per rules and guide lines.

Elementary and High Schools: All Government schools are required under this Act to provide one free midday meal to each child in the school of ages six to 14 years. The nutritional value of the meal shall be as per Govt. specifications.

Each school should be visited where GPS meetings are held and give your opinion on the mid-day meal program.

3. Free meals to pregnant and lactating mothers through Anganwadis

Each pregnant woman shall be entitled to free nutritional meal throughout pregnancy and up to six months after child birth from the Anganwadi. Each pregnant woman shall also be entitled to Rs. 6000 as maternity benefit in instalments as per central Government rules

Interview pregnant women and confirm whether they are receiving both the entitlements. Make a note in your book. Have one note book for right to food security Act.

4. If needed the Anganwadi shall also provide meals to severely malnourished children

Malnourished children between the ages of 6 months to 6 years shall be provided take home ration of 800 Kcal and 20-25 gs value per day.

SUMMARY

Whenever the mandal leaders visit a village to conduct a GPS meeting they shall also do the following:

- a) Visit each PDS and look at the distribution records for the previous month and interview women card holders to get their views on the PDS.
- b) Visit each elementary and high school and check records on the midday meal program, note how many children are in the midday meal program, interview few children.
- c) Visit anganwadi and confirm that take home ration to 6 months up to 3 years is being issued and note the number of children receiving it, and see how many children who are 3 to 6 years are receiving snacks and hot cooked meals daily.
- d) Interview pregnant women and lactating mothers and confirm whether they are getting take home rations or hot meals. Also find out if they are receiving Rs. 6000 in instalments.
- e) Finally ask the anganwadi ayah if they are feeding any severely malnourished children. Interview mothers of the children and confirm that they receiving supplementary ration. Record it in your book.

Note: All this will take you 1 ½ hours but it will make your services to the card holders stronger.