

Copy of D.O. Letter No.Khadya-Ne-8-2011-III-ePDS-21857 dated 07-12-2013, received from Sh. Priyatu Mandal, IAS, Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Block No. 42, Apurti Bhawan, Kasumpti, Shimla-9.

Subject:- Conducting IEC for ePDS scheme under National Food Security Act 2013.

The National Food Security Act (NFSA)013 has been implemented in the state of Himachal Pradesh since October this year. The NFSA mandates that the PDS system shall be systematically automated and computerized so that the benefits may reach the last person with full transparency. It also mandates issue of Ration Cards in the name of the eldest woman in the household-since age is a dynamic figure, it can only be tracked by a computerized system. The ePDS will usher in an era of transparency with transaction level details being available to the citizen. The citizens can know about the supply, stocking and disbursement of ration items through SMS and internet and this would ensure citizen awareness and empowerment.

The first process in the creation of Ration Cards is the filling up of new forms. These forms are being distributed to the Panchayats and it is expected that within a week most of the Panchayats would be having access to forms. Each family shall then take a form from the Panchayat Secretary, fill it up and submit it back to him. The Panchayat Secretary shall verify the details and shall submit the forms to the Inspector of our department who are located at Block level. The Inspector shall take the forms to the District level wherein private vendor shall digitize the record. After verification and cleaning up of the database, the state shall have a computerized Ration Card database which will be a revolutionary progress. This process is also the most critical part of the ePDS computerization program. More details of the same can be had from our website www.epds.co.in.

As is explained above, this whole process is complex, difficult and probably long. Reaching a target population of more than 76 lacs requires massive mobilization and IEC. Children of all ages constitute a large part of this target population. Being literate and young citizens of the nation, their contribution in nation-building cannot be under-estimated. Our young friends spread across the state are young ambassadors for every progressive project, and this surely is one. Keeping this in view, may I request you to kindly send the message across your schools during the morning assemblies and other forums? The children

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need only know that new Ration Card forms are being filled, and that their parents should surely fill up the forms as early as possible. The role of your Department in this cannot be over-emphasized.

Yours sincerely,

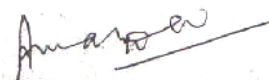
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(Priyatu Mandal)

Endst. No.EDN-HE(21)B(15)15/2013-V-Vol-II, dated Shimla-1 the December,2013

Copy for information and necessary action if forwarded to:-

1. Sh. Priyatu Mandal, Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Block No. 42, Apurti Bhawan, Kasumpti, Shimla-9, w.r.t. D.O. Letter No.Khadya-Ne-8-2011-III-ePDS-21857 dated 07-12-2013.
2. All the Dy. Directors of Higher Education in Himachal Pradesh, with the direction to issue necessary instructions to all field functionaries under their control for taking appropriate action in the matter accordingly as desired by quarter concerned, at the earliest.
3. The Technical Officer, IT Cell, with the directions to upload the same on the departmental website.
4. Guard file.



(Dr. Amar Dev),
Joint Director of Higher Education(C),
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1