

CHAPTER 13

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The A&N Islands is not sustainable in food production. Food security is ensured to the population through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Almost the entire population is covered at the TPDS.

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) ensures food security to the people especially to the poor by supplying rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene oil at subsidized prices through a network of Fair Price Shops (FPS). Under the TPDS, Each family is provided a Family Identity Card (FIC) which is attached to the nearest FPS. The card holder is entitled to purchase his requirement of essential commodities as per entitlement from this shop. The A&N Administration fixes the scale of supply of essential commodities as per the allocation by Govt. of India. The objective is to ensure that each family is supplied the correct quantity of essential commodities to which they are entitled at prices fixed by the Administration. The import of food grains and sugar during 2004-05 to 2006-07 is given in the following statement.

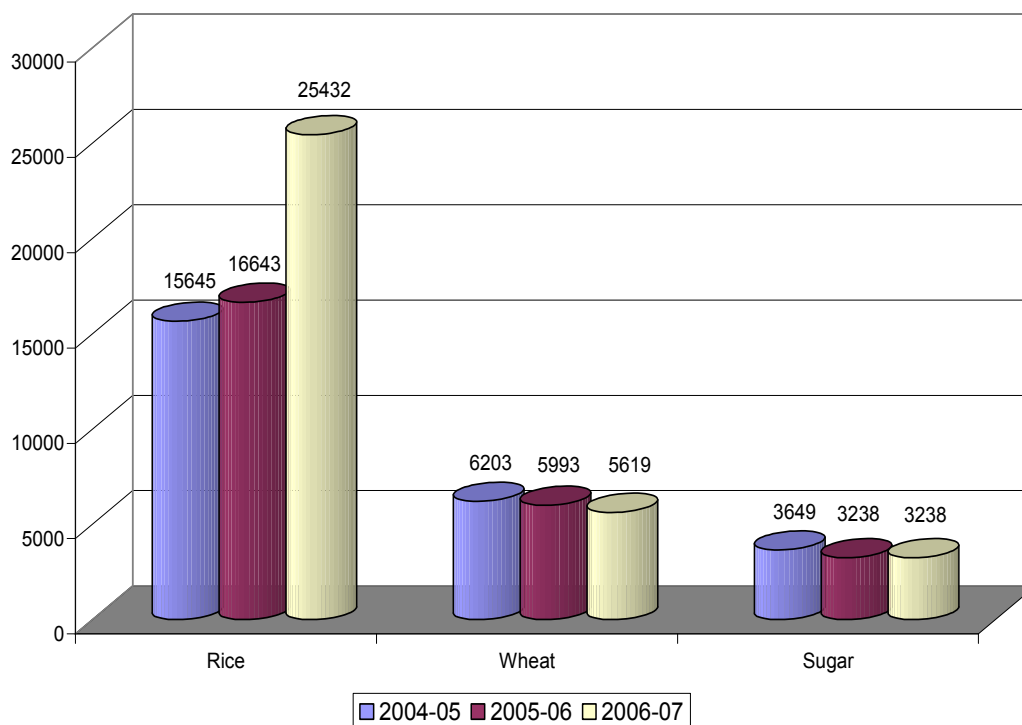
Statement 13.1

Import of Food Grains & Sugar (in MT)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Sugar
2004-05	15645	6203	3649
2005-06	16643	5993	3238
2006-07	25432	5619	3238

Chart 13.1

Import of food grains & sugar



The Department of Food & Civil Supplies, A&N Administration, manage the PDS in Andaman for regulating supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, essential commodities with a view to maintain or increase supplies thereof and secure their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices by enforcing the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and various Control made there under:

Statement 13.2

Important Indicators of PDS

Particulars	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
No. of Ration Cards	86451	86670	86670	86477	88395	89936	92602
No. of Fair Price Shops	439	487	496	418	453	483	443

Statement 13.3

District/Tehsil wise FPS and FIC for 2004-05 to 2006-07 is as follows.

District/Tehsil	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Fair Price Shops	Family Identity Cards	Fair Price Shops	Family Identity Cards	Fair Price Shops	Family Identity Cards
Andaman District						
Diglipur	17	6998	21	8926	21	8794
Mayabunder	22	5920	24	6225	31	7582
Rangat	57	9490	57	8330	68	8287
Port Blair	180	34751	205	40638	207	43926
Ferrargunj	103	15660	105	14470	76	13171
Little Andaman	23	4524	--	--	--	--
Nicobar District						
Car Nicobar	6	6048	13	4105	15	4318
Nancowry	3	NA	16	3056	38	2954
Campbell Bay	7	3086	12	2645	27	904

The A & N Islands being non-surplus and low productivity area for food-grains and other food stuffs, the food security is ensured by maintenance of buffer stock of TPDS food-grains for three months in the departmental storage godowns which are also declared as Principle Distribution Centres (PDCs) covering the entire length and breadth of these islands. There are eleven PDCs functioning presently with a storage capacity of 8366 MT wherein the food-grains are transported by the FCI directly by ships from Vizag to the PDCs located in the outer islands. In addition to this, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is also having storage facility of 7500 MT at Port Blair from where the TPDS requirement of food-grains in respect of South Andaman area is drawn.

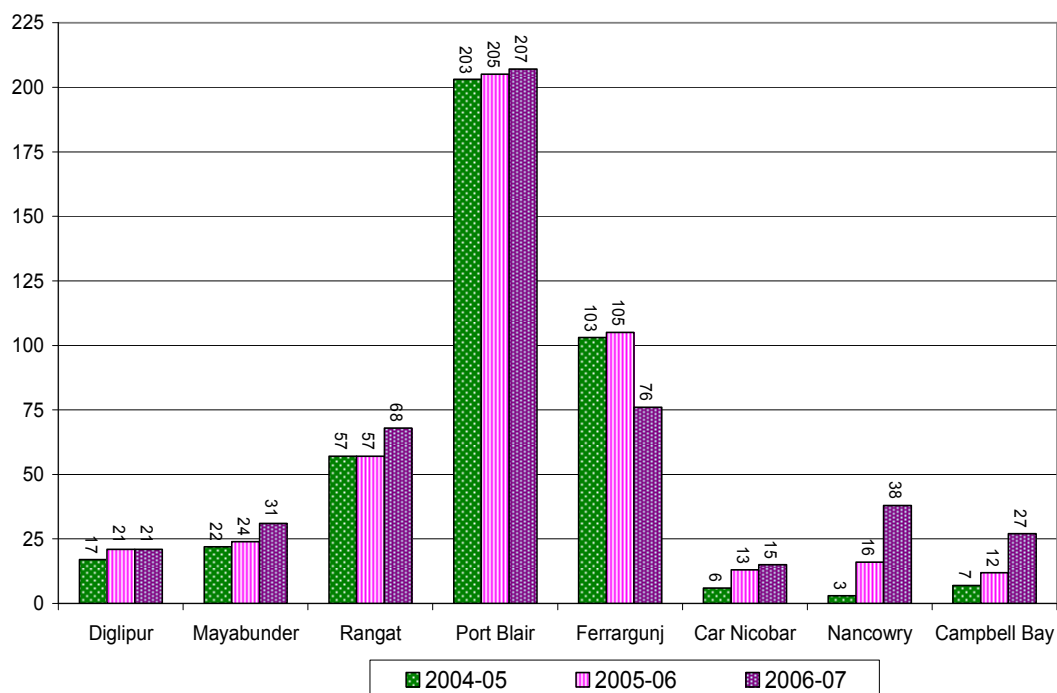
Statement 13.4
Fair Price Shops by Management

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Diglipur	17	21	21
Mayabunder	22	24	31
Rangat	57	57	68
Port Blair	203	205	207

Ferrargunj	103	105	76
Andaman District	402	412	403
Car Nicobar	6	13	15
Nancowry	3	16	38
Campbell Bay	7	12	27
Nicobar District	16	41	80
A & N Islands	418	453	483

Chart 13.2

Fair Price Shops



As per the population estimates projected by the Registrar General of India, the population of A&N Islands would be about 6.10 lakh by the year 2020 i.e. an increase of 70% over the population. Therefore the requirement of storage capacity for maintenance of three months buffer on the basis of increase in population is given in statement 13.5

Statement 13.5
Storage Capacity

In MT

Sl. No.	Name of the Station	Storage Capacity available	Storage capacity required by 2020 for maintenance of 3 months buffer stock	Storage Gap
1.	Rangat	600	1182	582
2.	Mayabunder	450	783	333
3.	Diglipur	450	891	441
4.	Little Andaman	600	1275	675
5.	Car Nicobar*	550	1653	1653
6.	Kamorta	500	372	Nil
7.	Katchal*	250	252	Nil
8.	Teressa	250	231	Nil
9.	Chowra*	100	99	99
10.	Campbell Bay	250	1407	1407
11.	Port Blair	4566	10227	5661
Total		8566	18372	7167

* *Temporary arrangements*

Initiatives have already been taken by the department during the 11th Plan for creation 3210 MT of storage capacity. However priority will be given for creation of additional 3091 Mt of storage space in the ensuing five year plans.

The distribution of rice, wheat and sugar through the Public Distribution System (PDS) was continued during 2007-08 in the UT. The details of allotment and distribution of essential commodities are given in the following statement.

Statement 13.6
Distribution of food-grains and sugar through the PDS 2003-04 to 2007-08

Sl. No.	Description	Yearly Allocation and Distribution of food-grains & Sugar under TPDS				
		Rice				
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
A	QUANTITY ALLOTTED					
1	Above Poverty Line (APL)	28200	23500	28200	17268	17268
2	Below Poverty Line (BPL)	4998	4165	5208	3600	4308
3	Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	1302	1085	1296	1296	1548
B	QUANTITY LIFTED FOR DISTRIBUTION					

1	Above Poverty Line (APL)	14982.467	18893.581	21674.470	22460.667	21756.000
2	Below Poverty Line (BPL)	4037.836	3010.874	1718.741	3486.600	4040.000
3	Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	2475.865	1038.134	1177.247	1128.148	1469.000
Wheat						
A	QUANTITY ALLOTTED					
1	Above Poverty Line (APL)	8160	6800	8160	4992	4412
2	Below Poverty Line (BPL)	2436	2030	2220	1440	732
3	Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	504	420	504	504	252
B	QUANTITY LIFTED FOR DISTRIBUTION					
1	Above Poverty Line (APL)	5306.902	6132.003	6852.044	4796.741	4436.626
2	Below Poverty Line (BPL)	2132.107	1774.715	589.234	1639.040	687.842
3	Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	642.273	691.162	365.803	232.345	172.640
Sugar						
A	QUANTITY ALLOTTED	4668	4668	4668	4668	4668
B	QUANTITY LIFTED FOR DISTRIBUTION	4668	4458	4668	4658	4595

* Distribution upto September'08

Chart 13.3

Quantity of rice allotted & lifted

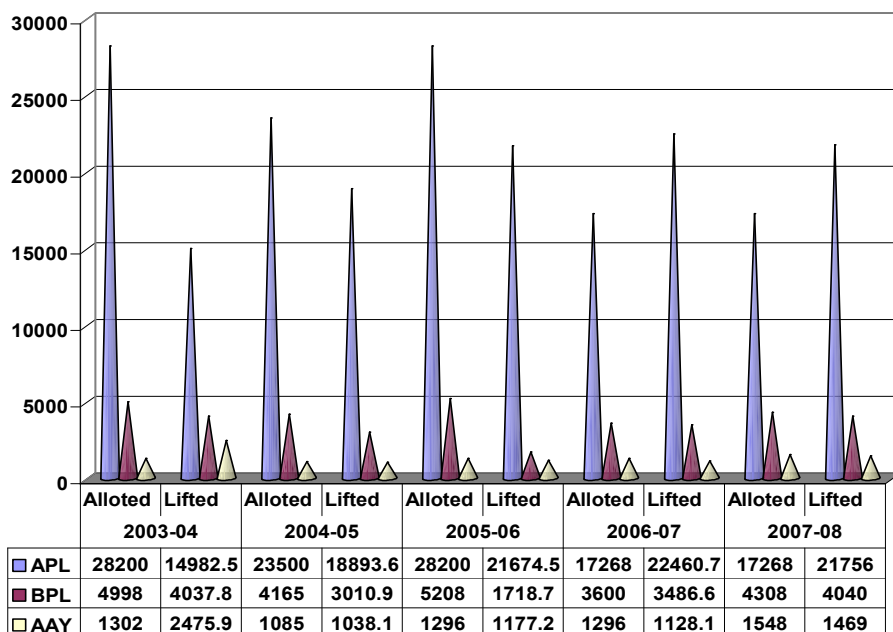
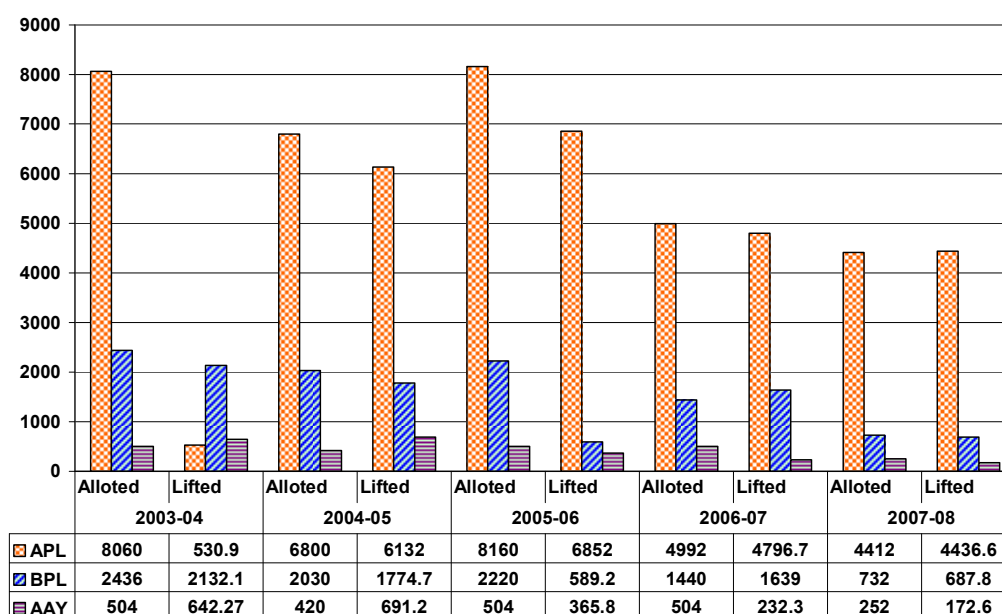


Chart 13.4

Quantity of wheat allotted and lifted



BPL Schemes

The resolve of the governments to reform and improve the PDS by focusing on the poor and needy sections of the society resulted in the launching of the TPDS in 2001. The object is to identify the persons/families living below poverty line (BPL) and issue a distinct ration card for selling specified cereal items through PDS outlets at specially subsidized rates. In A&N Islands families with income of Rs. 10,000 per year or less were identified as living below poverty line. As per the estimates of Planning Commission of India there were about 133054 lakh BPL persons in A&N Islands in 2001.

In A&N Islands 11286 BPL cards have been issued as on March 2008. Under the scheme BPL families are entitled to get 35 kg of food-grains per month per family. It consists of 27 kgs of rice & 8kg of wheat @ Rs. 6.05 Per kg for rice and @ Rs. 4.45 per kg of wheat.

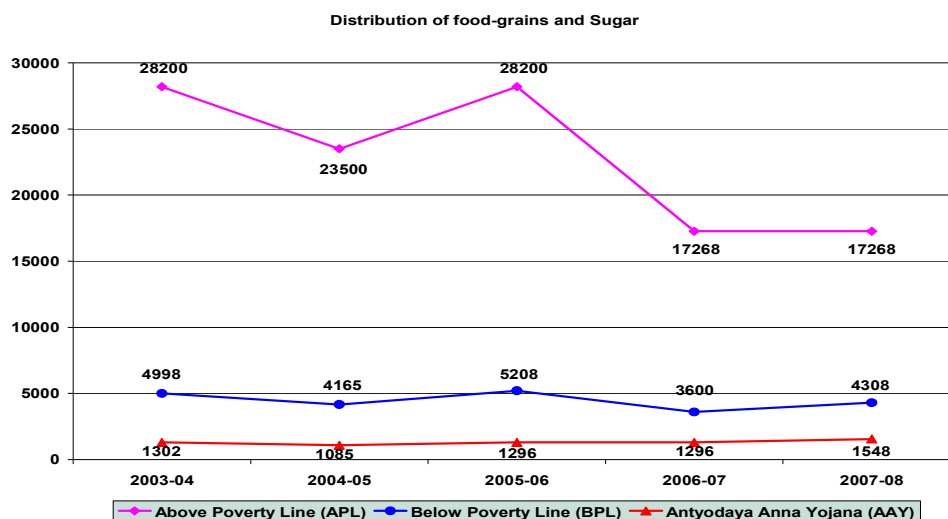
Statement 13.7
Details of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	
1.	Income Limit (Rs. Per Annum)	10000
2.	Estimated Number of Persons (in Lakhs)	1.33
3.	Number of BPL/AAY Ration Cards (in Lakhs)	0.18
4.	Quantity of Cereals Supplied Per Household (Kg per month)	35

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

The scheme is for the poorest section of population which is unable to get two square meals a day on a sustained basis throughout the year and their purchasing power is so low that they are not in a position to buy food-grains round the year even at BPL rates. Under the scheme, these families will be provided food-grains at the scale of 35 kg per family per month i.e. it consist of 31 kg of rice and 4 kg of wheat at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg of rice & Rs. 2 per kg of wheat. This scheme was initially limited to 15.33% of the lowest segment of BPL families estimated by Planning Commission, Govt. of India at 4300 families on the basis of certain socio-economic factors. The Government of India has raised the ceiling for AAY families from 15% to 30%. At present 6872 cards have been issued to AAY families under the scheme. The exercise to identify additional AAY families has been started and more families will be covered under the scheme.

Chart 13.5



Annapurna Scheme

This scheme envisages supply of food-grains (10 kg per head per month) free of cost to destitute people who are more than 65 years of age and not receiving old age pension from the Govt. The coverage is limited to 20% of the persons eligible for getting benefits under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, and their number is fixed at 560 under this scheme 236 Cards were distributed to eligible beneficiaries and at present there are 47 beneficiaries. Perhaps the main reason for the small number of beneficiaries is that most of the persons prefer to get monthly pension rather than 10 kg wheat. Moreover, persons prefer AAY scheme wherein they get 31 kg of rice at Rs. 3/- and 4 kg of wheat at Rs. 2/- and there is no restriction on pension.