

National Food Security Act 2013



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Adequate food and nutrition is right of every citizen. Keeping this in mind and keeping to the growing demands of people, the Government of India implemented the National Food Security Act (NFSA) on September 10, 2013 to provide food security to all citizens. Due to this Act, crores of people have received the right to food. Now, people of the country have the right to get food grains at discounted rates from the fair price shops and there is provision for hot cooked food for children at schools and anganwadis and take home ration for the children below three years of age. This Act also provides for maternal benefits to all pregnant and lactating mothers. But enacting a law is another matter, while implementing it effectively is a big challenge. We have to ensure effective implementation of the law in rural and urban sectors and monitor is constantly, which means that we have to constantly review and evaluate the rights received under the Act.

Main Provisions

In the foreword of NFSA, it is mentioned that “Food Security Act is based on human life cycle. It’s objective is to provide adequate quality food and nutrition safety at that price, which is within their reach, so that people can lead life with respect and dignity.”

Our Rights

We have four kinds of rights under the National Food Security Act:

1. Food grains from fair price shop:

- a) Every member of the priority family will be made available 5kg of food grains at discounted rates (Rice – Rs 3 per kg, Wheat – Rs 2 per kg and millets – Rs 1 per kg). Madhya Pradesh government is providing all grains (Rice, Wheat and Millets) at Rs 1 per kg
- b) Antyodaya families will get 35 kg of food grains every month at this rate

2. Integrated Child Development Scheme: Right to Nutrition

- a) Every pregnant and lactating mother would from the day of pregnancy to six months after childbirth would get nutritious food in the form of take home ration worth 600 calorie and 18-20 gm of protein
- b) Children between six months to three years of age would get nutritious food in the form of take home ration worth 500 calorie and 12-15 gm of protein
- c) Children in three to six years age group would get nutritious food in the form of breakfast and hot cooked food worth 500 calorie and 12-15 gm of protein
- d) Anganwadis would identify severely malnourished children in area concerned
- e) Malnourished children will get nutritious food in the form of take home ration worth 800 calorie and 20-25 gm of protein
- f) Every anganwadi would have facility of a kitchen and clean drinking water and toilet facility would be provided.



3. Mid-day Meal Scheme

- a) All government/local bodies and government aided school students will receive mid-day meal worth 450 calorie and 12 gm protein for children from class 1 to 5, worth 700 calorie and 20 gm protein for children from class 6 to 8 in the form of hot cooked food everyday free of cost except holidays
- b) Every school would have kitchen, clean drinking water and toilet
- c) In case necessary, mid-day meal could be provided in urban area from centralized kitchen according to norms of central government

4. Pradhanmantri Matritva Vandana Yojana: Maternity rights

- a) Maternity rights to pregnant/lactating mothers; As maternity benefit, every pregnant/lactating mother would get grant of minimum Rs 6000 under the central government scheme

How to Link Deprived Sections to the Scheme

- Identify who are deprived from right to food. Get them to apply and take receipt
- Whether name gets included after application within time lime? Use Right to Information
- Lodge complaint with district complaint redressing officer meaning district collector. Monitor whether there is any discrimination in the food-nutrition programme. Also monitor anganwadi centres and schools.
- Talk to all pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children to find out whether they are getting the nutrition
- Undertake social audit a community monitoring. Also activate community for joint initiative.

Complaint Redress System

Under the National Food Security Act, complaint redressing officer has been appointed at district level. In Madhya Pradesh, district collectors have been made district complaint redressing officer. They should redress complaint within 30 days of receiving it. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, then they could appeal before the State Food Commission within 30 days.

Monitoring System : Vigilance Committees

Enacting of the law and its implementation will help in getting right to food, but continuation of effective implementation with complete quality is a big challenge. Therefore, there is provision to form vigilance committees at state, district, development block and fair price (ration) shop levels, so that quality could be monitored and food and nutrition rights of people could be ensured.

State Vigilance Committee

To constantly monitor the National Food Security Act (NFSA) at state level, provision of state level vigilance committee has been made so that they could keep a watch on facilities and services provided under the Act at state level.



District Vigilance Committee

To constantly monitor the National Food Security Act (NFSA) at district level, provision of district level vigilance committee has been made so that they could keep a watch on facilities and services provided under the Act at district level.

Block Vigilance Committee

To constantly monitor the National Food Security Act (NFSA) at development block level, provision of block level vigilance committee has been made so that they could keep a watch on facilities and services provided under the Act at block level.

Fair Price Shop Level Vigilance Committee

There would be a committee at the level of fair price shop. The selection of the members would be made at Gram Sabha meeting after putting in proposals and taking approval. The membership would be for five years. Meetings will be conducted every month with prior information to the members. The list of selected members, approval of Gram Sabha, letters of members nominated by Sarpanch, proposal of gram panchayat and other documents will be sent to the assistant civil supplies officer by the member-secretary of the committee. The committee will have following members:

Designate	Rural Areas	Urban Areas
President	Gram Panchayat Sarpanch: where fair price shop is functioning	Corporator of the ward where the shop is functioning
Co-President	If any shop caters to people of two panchayats, sarpanch of the other panchayat will be Co-President	If the shop covers more than one ward, corporator of the other ward will be Co-President
Secretary	Secretary of Gram Panchayat	Authorised officer of the ward
Members	Total 8 beneficiaries including one each from SC, ST, disable and Antyodaya categories and four primary beneficiaries. Of these,	Total 8 beneficiaries including one each from SC, ST, disable and BPL card holder categories and four primary beneficiaries. Of these,
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Designate	Rural Areas	Urban Areas
	four should be women. Also there would be two members designated by the sarpanch	four should be women. Also there would be two members designated by the ward corporator

Information to be made available to the vigilance committees

- As soon as government releases allotment order, the committee members would receive information through SMS automatically
- As soon as the MP Civil Supplies Corporation Limited sends out the food grain vehicle, the amount of grain being sent and the vehicle number would be sent to the members of the committees
- Committee members and secretary will be given information on allotment for take home ration and nutritious food to the anganwadis. Vigilance committee members will also monitor the hot cooked food and mid-day meal schemes

Functions of the Committees

- Constant monitoring of the schemes included under National Food Security Act. To ensure that eligible persons receive benefits and no one is deprived
- To inform in writing the irregularities in the implementation of the Act to the district complaint redress officer
- The committees will supervise the schemes and if the committee finds any violation of provisions of law or any irregularities/siphoning, it will immediately inform the district complaint redress officer in writing

State Food Commission

The state government has formed a State Food Commission for the monitoring and evaluation of the system under the National Food Security Act.



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