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PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (CONTROL) ORDER, 2001⁽¹⁾

GSR No.630(E)-Whereas the Central Government is of the opinion that it is necessary and expedient so to do for maintaining supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System:

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955), the Central Government hereby makes the following order, namely: -

1. Short title, extent and commencement:-

(1) This order may be called the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions:-

(a) 'Act' means the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955);

(b) 'Appellate Authority' means an authority appointed as such by the State Government under Paragraph 7 of the Annex to this Order;

(c) 'authority' means any officer not below the rank of Inspector in the State Government dealing with Food and Civil Supplies;

(d) 'Above Poverty Line Families' means those families who have been issued Above Poverty Line (APL) ration cards by the State Governments for issue of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System;

(e) 'Antyodaya families' means those poorest families from amongst Below Poverty Line (BPL) families identified by the State Governments and entitled to receive foodgrains under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana;

(f) 'authorised nominee' means the concerned Department of State Government or a Corporation or a company owned by it or a co-operative;

(g) 'Below Poverty Line families' means those families who have been identified by the State Government for issue of foodgrains at specially subsidized rates adopting the estimates of poverty given by the Central Government;

(h) 'eligible applicant' means an individual who is resident of a State and fulfills the conditions for getting a ration card as may be prescribed by the State Government;

(i) 'essential commodities' means essential commodities as defined under the Act;

(j) 'fair price shop' means a shop, which has been licensed to distribute essential commodities by an order issued under section 3 of the Act, to the ration card holders under the Public Distribution System;

(k) 'fair price shop owner' means a person and includes a cooperative society or a corporation or a company of a State Government or a Gram Panchayat or any other body in whose name a shop has been licensed to distribute essential commodities under the Public Distribution System;

(l) 'Public Distribution System' means the system for distribution of essential commodities to the ration cardholders through the fair price shops, such as rice, wheat, sugar, edible oils, kerosene and such other commodities as are notified by the Central Government under clause (a) of section 2 of the Act;

(m) 'ration card' means a document issued under an order or authority of the State Government for the purchase of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System from the fair price shop;

(n) 'State' includes a Union territory;

(o) 'State Government' includes Administration of a Union territory;

