

Food Security Bill - Issues and Implications

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Abstract: God has made people with distinct reason and every individual is a one of a kind identity and the survival and presence relies upon nourishment. A couple of blessed individuals can get rich sustenance, and a dominant part of the populace is living on lacking nourishment or experiencing hunger. There are a few obliging variables for the disgraceful advancement of Indian farming say, little size of landholdings, misleading seeds, high information costs, despicable water administration and so on. Nourishment Security to be given to every one of the general population, it is the prime duty of Government to be made accessible subjective sustenance to all individuals in the nation. Nourishment frailty is the significant issue in the nation because of low profitability due to troublesome climatic conditions, the absence of gainful costs. People in general conveyance framework (PDS). in India isn't giving legitimate security of sustenance to the general population in India. Sham proportion cards and defilement of common supplies division are significant purposes behind the disappointment of the PDS. In this association, ideal for nourishment was distinguished as the central right of individuals in India by the summit court of India. National nourishment security charge was proposed on 2010 October. This bill came into constrain on 2013. The bill tries to give nourishment and sustenance security in the human life cycle. With this bill Government of India need to give rice, wheat, millets at financed cost. Facilitate government additionally suspected that the need ought to be given kids, lactating ladies and pregnant ladies in getting healthful eating routine. Straightforwardness in PDS will be given need in this bill. An endeavor has been made in this paper to break down the issues and suggestions and to comprehend whether the poor will truly profit out of the showstopper Bill.

Keywords: Food Security, distribution system, legal initiative, lactating women

Introduction:

God has created human beings with a definite purpose and each individual is an unique personality and the survival and existence depends on food. However, the availability of food and measurement depends on various factors, a few fortunate people are able to get rich food and a vast majority of the population is living on insufficient food or suffering from malnutrition. If the total poor people are arrived 900 million in the world nearly 300 million poor people are living in object poverty in India. On the eve of the 50th anniversary of India's independence the then Indian president K.R.Narayanan had listed the two major achievements of India i.e. Adhering to democratic system of Governance and the launch of a green revolution in Agriculture. Even though India attained self sufficiency in Food giving many years back, the saddest part is that nearly 35% of India's population remains in the clutches of Food insecurity

The Development of India is not only from all angles including food sector also. The Indian mother has entered in 68th year age but many more souls are desperately looking for two square nutrias meal per day which is a distant dream. Healthy population is an insignia for talented, knowledge society and it is incumbent on the part of the parties in power to provide basic need of food for all on the Indian geographical abstract.

Indian Agriculture Scenerio

The culture of India is agriculture. The main mode of Indian living is agriculture and our "INDIA LIVES IN ITS VILLAGES" is the standard adage sixty five percent of Indian Population is living on Agriculture and basically agriculture depends on monsoons. There are several constraining factors for the improper development of Indian Agriculture. Prominent among them are

- (1) Low acre age means the average holding ranges from 3 cents to 5 Acres. Cultivation in the small holding is un-economical.
- (2) Spurious seeds.
- (3) Improper water management.
- (4) Indiscriminate usage of pesticides.
- (5) Illiteracy of Farmers.
- (6) Low yield.
- (7) Lack of market facilities.
- (8) Market intermediaries.
- (9) Input cost is more.
- (10) Debt trap of farmers.
- (11) Lack of transport facilities.
- (12) Insufficient government policies.

All these are contributing for low progress of agriculture, several farmers across the country are committing suicides and as such agriculture has become uneconomical and Indian backbone “the farmer” is leaving the field and shifting to other areas. In these drastic situations over 200 million children, women and men go to the bed in hungry in India. It is estimated that 45% children are under nourished and this prompted the government to introduce Food Security.

Definition of Food Security

The world Bank has characterized Food Security³ as " Access by all individuals at unequaled to enough sustenance for a dynamic and sound life" Here, the accentuation is on physical accessibility and monetary openness of nourishment to the general population.

Reasons for Food Insecurity:

- Poor harvest coupled with rising demand has resulted into enhancement in food prices
- Unfavorable weather conditions are the reason for low productivity.
- Tight supply pushed the food prices to unprecedented heights.
- Public investment in Agriculture is reducing.
- High yielding crop varieties are not introduced.
- Lack of remunerative prices.
- Insufficient inputs in irrigation.
- Low Technology usage.

A Weak Public Distribution System

A well conceived distribution system aims to supply food to the poor and vulnerable section of the society. But in practice it is a totally failure and it is estimated that minimum 65% of the subsidized food grains are not reaching the below poverty line people². Main constraining factors for this are

- Bogus ration cards are more.
- Below poverty people are eliminated from the scheme due to lack of Aadhar card, ration card.
- Definition for below poverty people.
- White collar people, affordable people are in the forefront to get ration cards.
- Richest people are also getting cards.
- Corruption in the civil supplies department.
- Ration shop dealers are selling away the supplies in Black market.
- No proper control to check bogus ration cards.
- Lack of Education among the BPL people.

These are the major causes for people to feel food insecurity. The majority of India’s poor are in rain fed areas of the eastern Indio-Gangetic plains.

Legal Initiative

The privilege of sustenance is a standout amongst the most fundamental privileges of humanity. Craving stays inadmissible, boundless. While numerous practices in nourishment generation innovation are basically unsustainable. As indicated by AMARTYA SEN, NOBLE PRIZE champ "when India accomplished

freedom over 67 years back, the general population of the nation were tremendously partnered by endemic yearning". The Government can't escape with expansive Scale Famine yet it can escape with perpetual craving⁴. Yearning has turned into an acknowledged piece of Indian lifestyle. India has the biggest number of hungry individuals on the planet. Appetite and unhealthiness are as yet real human and social issues. Specialists are depicting this circumstance as "Quiet EMERGENCY".

Legal Relief

India is a signatory to the all-inclusive statement of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) which perceived a privilege to sufficient sustenance. Aside from this, the order Principles of the state approach in the constitution of India given that the commitment of the state is to raise the level of sustenance and way of life of its kind and need to enhance general wellbeing.

In 1996, the pinnacle court likewise proclaimed that the privilege to live ensured in any socialized society infers that the privilege of nourishment among different rights. The Civil Liberties Association had additionally fought in the Supreme Court that the "right to sustenance" is likewise a piece of key "appropriate to live" gave in article 21 of the constitution. Then the summit court gave a few break orders. In the year 2001, the court requested the execution of eight halfway supported plans as legitimate privileges. These incorporate the Public Distribution System (PDS), ANTYODAYA ANNA YOJANA (AAY), the Midday Meal Scheme, and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) among others. In the year 2008, the court requested that underneath destitution line (BPL) families be qualified for 35 kg of nourishment grains every month at sponsored rates¹.

Preamble

Ensuring to the pinnacle court arranges in the year 2010 October, the National Advisory Council (NAC) drafted a National Food Security Bill Proposing Legal privileges to around 75 percent of the populace in this way. Dr.C.Rangaranjan made a few including decreasing the extent of the populace qualified for benefits and modernizing PDS.

Salient Features of National Food Security Bill-2013

(A) Preliminaries: The bill looks for "to give nourishment and wholesome security in human life cycle approach, by guaranteeing access to the satisfactory amount of value sustenance at a reasonable cost to individuals to carry on with an existence with respect and for issues associated therewith and coincidental too.

(B) Entitlements: Need family units are qualified for 5kg of sustenance grains for each individual every month and 2.43 crore Antyodaya families to 35 kgs for each family every month.

- The consolidated scope of Priority and Antyodaya families shell reach out up to 75% of the rustic populace and up to half the urban populace.
- In a nutshell, the bill does away the qualification amongst BPL and APL. And all are qualified for 5kg grain for every individual every month.
- The PDS issue costs are given in plan Rs 3/2/1 for rice/wheat/millet. They might be reexamined following 3 years¹.

(i) Childrens Entitlement: For the youngsters in the age gathering of a half year to 6 years, the bill ensures an age fitting supper at for nothing out of pocket through the neighborhood Anganwadi. For kids matured 6-14 years are free noontime dinner might be given each day aside from on school occasions in all schools adjacent nearby bodies up to class VIII.

⇒For children under Six months "Exclusive breastfeeding shall be promoted"

(ii) Entitlements of Pregnant and Lactating Women: Each pregnant and lactating mother qualifies for a free dinner at the nearby Anganwadi (amid pregnancy and a half year after tyke birth).As well as maternity advantages of Rs. 6000 in portions.

With the end goal of the organization, the Bill accommodates the making of State Food Commissions. Each commission should comprise of a seated individual, five different individuals, and a part secretary.

Transparency and grievance redressal:

The Bill gives a two-level redressal structure, including the District Grievance Redressal Officer (DGRO). The Mandatory Transparency Provisions incorporate.

(A) Placing all PDS related records in the general population areas and keeping them open for examination to people in general.

- (B) Conducting intermittent Social Audits of the PDS and other welfare plans.
- (C) Using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to guarantee straightforward chronicle of exchanges at all levels.
- (D) Setting up carefulness advisory groups at state, locale piece, and reasonable value shop levels to direct all plans under the demonstration⁶.
- (E) The Bill likewise expresses that focal and state government" might attempt to continuously undertake different PDS changes
- (F) The Bill "accommodates punishment to be forced on open hirelings or specialist if discovered liable of neglecting to conform to the help prescribed by the locale grievance redressal officer".
- (G) One of the most off-beat ideas to be implemented in a highly patriarchal society like India is that "Eldest women of 18 years of age or above will be head of the household.

Even though the Bill was accented by the President of India but a million dollar question arises in the minds of many a people that whether it really assures the poor freedom from hunger.

A public distribution shop also known as fair price shop or a ration shop. These shops offer wheat, rice, lamp fuel and sugar at a value lower than advertised cost. To purchase things one must have apportioned card. India has 4,78,000 shops constituting the biggest appropriation organize on the planet. The presentation of proportioning in India goes back to 1940's Bengal starvation. The accompanying are the basic deficiencies.

1. There are several instances that consumers are receiving stale and inferior Quality grains in the ration shops.
2. Deceitful dealers replace food supplies received from the Food Corporation of India with inferior stock and sell FCI stock in the black market.
3. It is a common Practice in many ration shops that large number of bogus cards is found. This happens with the convenience of revenue department.
4. The Dealers commission is very low and to resort to malpractice, illegal diversion of commodities, holding and black marketing.
5. Many malpractices make safe and nutritious food inaccessible and unaffordable to many poor then resulting in their food insecurity.
6. In order to prevent bogus cards, Aadhar card seeding is taking place. But it is a surprise that many a bogus aadhar cards are in circulation.
7. Regional allocation and coverage of Fair Price Shops (FPS) are unsatisfactory and the main objective of price stabilization of essential commodities has not met
8. There is no standard criterion to say which family is BPL and which APL is.

Advantages of the Bill

1. Ideal to sustenance turns into a lawful right. The Bill plans to give lawful directly finished financed Food grain to 67 percent of populace.
2. The Bill give uniform distribution of 5 kg nourishment grain (per individual) at settled rate of Rs. 3 (Rice), Rs. 2 (Wheat), and corn grain Rs. 1 for each kg to 75 percent of the provincial populace and 50 percent of the poor in urban India, around 800 million individuals.
3. Continuation of Antyodaya Annayojana Protection to 2.43 crore poorest of poor families under the AAY to supply 35 kg sustenance grains for each month per family would proceed.
4. For youngsters in the age gathering of half year to 6 years the bill ensures an age proper feast.
5. National help to pregnant ladies without confinement are among different changes proposed in the bill.
6. The apparatus for execution will utilize the foundation like PDS and anganwadis. This anticipates facilitate wastage of cash to create framework.

Disadvantages

1. Can India produce enough food to cope with the demand created by the bill. In case of a National disaster, a calamity like flood, famine drought not only there will be a sudden demand for food, but the production also comes down dramatically. The climate changes and irregular monsoon also pos annual threats to crops.
2. Some experts are of the opinion that this bill is redundant and irreverent in a developing country.
3. The Government buys grain at a monetary cost of Rs. 18 for every kg. This incorporates the value it pays to agriculturists cost of stocking, the sustenance dispersion under the plan the legislature will pitch the nourishment to proportion card holders at Rs. 1 and Rs.3 per kg which is a sponsorship of Rs. 16/- per kg.

4. When the debasement has leaked in relatively every part of Indian administration. Can the sustenance security charge get away from its grasp? It is excessively a Utopian dream. Nearly everyone expects that agents and authorities will take the advantages of poor people and just an unimportant would have the capacity to stream down to the penniless.
5. The Central Bank i.e., RBI has cautioned that expanded open spending could extend the Governments shortfall and further develop the lifted swelling. Market analysts say that India would ill be able to bear the cost of such an exorbitant appropriation load when the monetary development has eased back to 10 years low. The cost of sustenance endowment will go up from 0.8% GDP to around 1.5% GDP. This is significant where the Government does not have enough assets⁷.
6. The Bill proposes to give sustenance grains to individuals at extremely modest rates may dishearten the agribusiness generation in the nation. There is still no lucidity with respect to who will bear the weight of the huge appropriation that will be spent.
7. The over falls on the farmers and it will make their life harder. The low prices of the subsidized food can dissipate the market and farmers who can't sell to the government assured programmes will lose out the open market because prices will be forced down.
8. The definition and criteria about the poor is still vague and ambiguous.
9. Sufficient storing facilities are not available even now in India.

Conclusion:

With implementation of National Food Security Bill 2013, it was observed that 67 percent of population will be provided a legal right over subsidized food. It is evident that 75 percent of rural population and 50 percent of urban population were covered with this food security. Continuation of Annyojana (AAY) scheme will give a protection in relation to food and malnutrition to several poorest of poor families is a welcoming thing. The respective State Governments have to take initiatives to implement the scheme in letter and spirit so that people below the poverty line will have two square meals per day and it is also the responsibility of elected Governments to provide food, fodder and safe drinking water to the public. Food occupies a major role in the man's materialistic world.

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