

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**(Department of Food And Public Distribution)****NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 8th February, 2017

S.O. 371(E).— Whereas, the use of Aadhaar as identity document for delivery of services or benefits or subsidies simplifies the Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency, and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlements directly in a convenient and seamless manner and Aadhaar obviates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity;

And whereas, implementation of relevant provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (hereinafter referred to as NFSA), through Targeted Public Distribution System (hereinafter referred to as TPDS) and Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy Rules, 2015 issued under the said National Food Security Act, 2013, involves recurring expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India;

Now, therefore in pursuance of the provisions of the Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (18 of 2016) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government hereby notifies the following, namely: --

1. (1) An individual eligible to receive the subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA and having valid Ration Cards issued by State Governments or Union Territory Administrations is hereby required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication. Any new eligible beneficiary who is selected by State Governments or Union Territory Administrations for receiving subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA is also required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo Aadhaar authentication as stated in ensuing clauses.
- (2) All such eligible beneficiaries entitled to receive subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA, who do not possess the Aadhaar Number or, are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, but are desirous of availing subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA are hereby required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment by 30th June, 2017, provided he or she is entitled to obtain Aadhaar as per Section 3 of the said Act. All such individuals may visit any Aadhaar enrolment centre (list available at www.uidai.gov.in) to get enrolled for Aadhaar.
- (3) As per regulation 12 of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016, the State or Union Territory Administration Food Department which requires an individual to furnish Aadhaar is required to offer enrolment facilities for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar and in case there is no Aadhaar enrolment centre located in the respective Block or Taluka or Tehsil, the State or Union Territory Food Department is required to provide enrolment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with the UIDAI or the existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming UIDAI registrar themselves :

Provided that, till the Aadhaar is assigned to the beneficiaries of subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA, subsidy or benefits under NFSA shall be given to such individual, subject to the production of the following identification documents, namely :-

- (a) Ration Card issued by the State or Union Territory Administration Food Department; and
- (b) (i) If he or she has enrolled, his or her Aadhaar Enrolment ID slip; or
(ii) a copy of his or her request made for Aadhaar enrolment, as specified in sub-paragraph (2) of Paragraph 2; and
- (c) (i) Voter ID card issued by the Election Commission of India; or (ii) Permanent Account Number Card issued by Income Tax Department; or (iii) Passport; or (iv) Driving License issued by Licensing authority under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988); or (v) Certificate of Identity having photo issued by the Gazetted officer or Tehsildar on an official letter head; or (vi) Address card having Name and Photo issued by Department of Posts; or (vii) Kisan Photo Passbook; or (viii) any other document as specified by the State Government or Union Territory Administration :

Provided further that the above documents shall be checked by an officer designated by the State/UT Food Department for that purpose.

2. In order to provide convenient and hassle free subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA to beneficiaries, the State or Union Territory Administration Food Department shall make all the required arrangements including following, namely :-

- (1) Wide publicity through media and individual notices through the district food supply office or fair price shops, etc., shall be given to beneficiaries of subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA to make them aware of the requirement of Aadhaar under the scheme and they may be advised to get themselves enrolled at the nearest enrolment centres available in their areas by 30th June, 2017 in case they are not already enrolled. The list of locally available enrolment centres shall be made available to them.
- (2) In case, beneficiaries of subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA are not able to enrol due to non-availability of enrolment centres in the near vicinity such as in the Block or Tehsil or Taluka, the State or Union Territory Food Department are required to provide enrolment facilities at convenient locations in coordination with the UIDAI or the existing Registrars of UIDAI or by becoming UIDAI registrar themselves and the beneficiaries of subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA may register their request for enrolment by giving their name, address, mobile number with Ration Card number and other details specified in the proviso to sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 1 with their fair price shop owners or through the web portal provided for the purpose.
3. This notification shall come into effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette in all States and Union Territories except the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir.
4. The State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of thirty days from the receipt of proof of possession of Aadhaar number furnished by individual beneficiaries of the eligible household, link the Aadhaar number with the Ration Card issued to such household or with Bank Account for Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy.
5. Notwithstanding anything in above paragraphs, any member of eligible household listed in the Ration Card shall be entitled to receive the entire quantity of entitled subsidised food grains or Cash Transfer of Food Subsidy under NFSA, if any one member of the household in the Ration Card fulfils the identification conditions mentioned in above clauses, in case Aadhaar number is not yet assigned to all such members of the household.

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DEEPAK KUMAR, Jt. Secy.