



File No. FS/Sectt/Food/5C-12/06 (Part-I)

No. : 247

Dated: 20.01.2025

Minutes of the Meeting of State Level Vigilance Committee

In the Chair:	Chief Secretary
Meeting Date & Time:	10.01.2025 at 1:15 P.M.
Meeting Venue:	13 th Floor, Nabanna
Participants :	List Attached

The Chief Secretary took the chair and welcomed all. At the instance of Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, Food & Supplies Department gave a power point presentation on the status of meetings of Vigilance Committee held at the various levels and overall activities of the Department.

The following issues were discussed and decision taken :-

1. The Vigilance Committees formed as mandated in NFSA, 2013 at the District level, Block level and the Fair Price Shop level are holding meetings. The District Magistrates being the chairpersons of the District Level Vigilance Committees may be requested to take initiatives to hold the meetings at different levels more regularly and discuss issues related with the coverage of beneficiaries, ensuring entitlements of foodgrains to the beneficiaries as per their card categories, effective implementation of Duare Ration, etc.
2. It was decided that the constitution of the Vigilance Committee at different levels may be reviewed in the present context as during the last several years, the role, responsibilities and functions of the committee have changed drastically.
3. It was noted that the Food & Supplies Department has undertaken several structural and procedural reforms using IT tools and have made the services related with ration card, delivery of foodgrains, supply chain management, grievance redressal, etc. simpler, effective and transparent.
4. It was informed to the house that beneficiaries are now being provided an easy and convenient facility for availing certain basic services related to ration cards just by verification through Aadhaar. For these self-services no approval from any office is required and the modifications take immediate effect and the citizens do not need to visit any office.
5. It was noted that ration card data cleansing activity has been taken on priority basis and at present 98.50% of 8.80 Crore Ration Cards have been Aadhaar seeded. The exercise has on one side removed dead & duplicate ration cards and on the other side ensured that the eligible & genuine beneficiaries are covered under the food security net. At present 99.95% of transactions are authenticated.

6. To ensure that the benefit of the scheme reaches the beneficiaries in the best possible form, the number of Inspections of FPS& Distributors has gradually improved during 2022-23 to 2024-25. The Chief Secretary advised that an analysis of the outcome of the Inspections done by the Field level officials *suo moto* and action taken on those findings should be done and placed in the next meeting.
7. It was informed that regular and random testing of rice and atta is being done at the 3 laboratories of the Department. It was advised by the chair that Food Safety officers of the Health Department may be requested to inspect FPSs/Distributor godowns and Flour Mills for checking the quality of atta and certification may be issued for atta manufacturing process as per the FSSAI standard procedures.
8. It was placed before the committee that proactive and timely preparatory actions required to ensure that the procurement of paddy from small & marginal farmers at MSP starts in time were taken by advancing the entire schedule by 2 months. This has resulted in better procurement during November-January compared to the last KMSs. Till the date of the meeting around 33 Lakh MT of paddy has been procured against the total target of 68 LMT for KMS 2024-25.
9. The Department has taken the best possible steps to ensure that awareness and capacity of the beneficiaries of PDS and paddy procurement is strengthened. Publicity in the form of banners, hoardings, posters, leaflets, social media, newspaper and TV advertisement have been undertaken regularly. The department has made its own Publicity and Awareness Plan which has specified the size, content, frequency, etc.
10. The Department has a robust mechanism for responding to the queries and grievances of the public, PDS beneficiaries and farmers. Any such person can access the website, Mobile App, WhatsApp Chatbot and Toll free Call Center & Help Desk (12x7) or portal (helpdesk.wbfood.in) of the department for information or lodging any grievance. All calls are also entered in the portal and monitored. A Help Desk has been opened to for stakeholders of the Department like FPS Dealers, Distributors, Flour Mills, Rice Mills and Purchase Officer to help them with their queries and provide resolution of the problems to enable them to discharge their functions easily and efficiently.
11. It was proposed that the ADG, Enforcement Branch, Health Secretary and Food Safety Commissioner may be included as members in the State Level Vigilance Committee, to which the House agreed.
12. The Chief Secretary advised that now that the system is in place, emphasis should be given on improving the quality of inspections, supervision and of the services provided. Emphasized was laid on intelligent inspections and follow up on the outcome of the inspections. He further emphasized that the department should work as a team towards better results in supply, distribution and achievement of target of paddy procurement.

There being no other issues for discussion, the meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.


(Dr. Manoj Pant, IAS)
Chief Secretary

Participating Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	Shri Prabhat Kumar Mishra, IAS	Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department
2	Smt. Sanghamitra Ghosh, IAS	Principal Secretary, W & CD and Social Welfare Department
3	Shri Narayan Swaroop Nigam, IAS	Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department
4	Parwez Ahmad Siddiqui, IAS	Principal Secretary, Food & Supplies Department
5	Md. Ghulam Ali Ansari, IAS	Principal Secretary, UD & MA Department
6	Shri Subhra Chakrabarti, IAS	Secretary-in-School Education Department
7	Smt. Liza Banerjee	Principal of Calcutta Blind School, Rep. from W&CD and SW Deptt.
8	Shri Sakti Bara	Representative from Tribal Development Deptt.
9	Shri Debabrata Chakraborty, IAS	Senior Special Secretary, Food & Supplies Department
10	Shri Sristidhar Santra, Retd. IAS	Managing Director, WBSWC
11	Shri Pranab Biswas	Special Secretary, Food and Supplies Department
12	Shri Sandeep Kumar Ghosh, IAS	Special Secretary & Director, Dte. of I&QC, Food & Supplies Deptt.
13	Shri Suman Kumar Ghosh	Director, Dte. of DDP&S & Dte. of Rationing, Food and Supplies Deptt
14	Shri Subir Ghosh	Director, Dte. of Consumer Goods, Food and Supplies Department
15	Shri Sumit Gobinda Choudhury	Director, Dte. of Finance, Food and Supplies Department
16	Shri Rajesh Gulia	General Manager, Food Corporation of India
17	Shri Dhaval Jain	Municipal Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation