

Speech of Thiru R. Sakkarapani, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu at the Conference Food Ministers of states on 5th July, 2022 / UTs on Food and Nutrition Security in India.

Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution and Textiles,

Hon'ble Union Minister of State,

Hon'ble Ministers from all States and Union territories, Senior officials from the Union, States and Union territories.

On behalf of our beloved leader and **Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru M.K. Stalin**, I would like to thank you for providing us with this opportunity to present about the best practices by our Government in ensuring Food and Nutritional Security for all.

Tamil Nadu has been implementing the Universal Public Distribution System for more than 40 years, extending the ambit of Food Security to all categories of people without discrimination of income or social status even after the introduction of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer State that has opened new vistas in policy framework and implemented programmes for addressing food and nutritional requirements of its people. Our great leader, the then **Chief Minister, Muthamizharnagar, Kalaignar** introduced the Special Public Distribution System in 2007 to supply 1 Kg of Tur dhal, 1 Kg of Urad dhal, 1 Kg Aatta and 1 Litre of Palmolein oil to all the cardholders at highly subsidized rates to improve the nutritional requirements of common people.

Our Government headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin have distributed 14 grocery items to 2.09 crore family card holders along with cash grant of Rupees four thousand as Corona relief in May and June 2021.

We also supplied twenty nutritious food items including Urad Dhall, Moong Dhall, Gram Dhall, Aatta and Ghee on the eve of Pongal Festival in January 2022 to 2.15 crore family card holders.

In our State, on an average 98 % of the transactions at fair price shops are done through Biometric authentication which ensures that real card holders are benefitted under Public Distribution System.

Government led by the **then Chief Minister Muthamizharingar, Kalaingar** introduced supply of egg once in a fortnight to all school going children in 1989 and again in 2010 enhanced it to all five working days to provide nutritional food.

Noteworthy to mention here is the fact that our Government headed by our beloved leader and the Honourable Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin have recently introduced morning breakfast to school going children.

Niti Ayog in its recent Multi Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report said that in Tamil Nadu 4.89 % of the population is poor where as the national average is 25.01 %. Effective implementation of Public Distribution System and Special Public Distribution System in our State is one of the main reasons for this achievement.

I assure that under the visionary leadership and guidance of our beloved leader and **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru M.K.Stalin**, Tamil Nadu will work together with the Union Government and other State Governments towards providing Food and Nutrition security to all in this country.

Nandri !

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