

households, 21.7 per cent of ST households, 15.8 per cent of SC households and 5 per cent of OC households opined that the opening days in a month is one week and above and the remaining 30.8 per cent of households were of the view that the opening days in a month is less than one week. Therefore, from the above analysis, the researcher had also observed that the opening days are reported to be about one week.

TABLE IV CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS AS PER THE OPINION ABOUT THE OPENING DAYS IN A MONTH

Mandal	Opinion about Opening days	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	< one week	11	14	8	4	37
		(9.2)	(11.7)	(6.7)	(3.3)	(30.8)
	Above one week	19	26	32	6	83
(15.8)		(21.7)	(26.7)	(5.0)	(69.2)	
Total	30	40	40	10	120	
	(25.0)	(33.3)	(33.3)	(8.3)	(100.0)	

TABLE V CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS AS PER THE QUANTITY OF RICE PURCHASED FROM FPS

Mandal (1)	Quantity of rice (in kgs.) (2)	Caste				Total (7)
		SC (3)	ST (4)	BC (5)	OC (6)	
Tadvai	4	2	4	2	-	8
		(1.7)	(3.3)	(1.7)		(6.7)
	8	5	9	7	-	21
		(4.2)	(7.5)	(5.8)		(17.5)
	10	-	1	-	-	1
			(0.8)			(0.8)
	12	5	8	13	1	27
		(4.2)	(6.7)	(10.8)	(0.8)	(22.5)
	16	10	9	11	2	32
		(8.3)	(7.5)	(9.2)	(1.7)	(26.7)
	20	5	5	7	2	19
		(4.2)	(4.2)	(5.8)	(1.7)	(15.8)
	35	3	6	3	-	12
		(2.5)	(5.0)	(2.5)		(10.0)
Total	30	42	43	5	120	
	(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)	

Table V deals with the caste-wise distribution of the sample households as per the quantity of rice purchased from FPSs in the study area. A majority of the sample households i.e. 26.7 per cent stated that they are purchasing a quantity of 16 kgs from FPSs and 9.2 per cent of households from BC, 8.3 per cent of households from SC, 7.5 per cent of households from ST and only 1.7 per cent of households from OC are purchasing 16 kgs per month from FPSs and the remaining households are purchasing 12 kgs, 8 kgs, 20 kgs, 35 kgs and 4 kgs from the FPS and their respective per centages are

being 22.5, 17.5, 15.8, 10, and 6.7. Thus, from the above analysis, it can be said that a majority of the sample households are not obtaining the sufficient quantity of rice for their families from FPSs and it paves the way for the households to depend on other than FPSs which means general kirana shops to get the remaining quantity of rice. In this regard, during the field work, it had also been observed that the quantum of rice that had been distributed to the families through FPSs as a part and parcel of PDS is inadequate to eke out their families' consumption per month and therefore they rely on the private traders. In this regard, the sample households were of the view that the quantity of supply of rice through FPSs should be an adequate quantity.

TABLE VI CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS AS PER THE REASONS TO PURCHASE FROM FPS

Mandal	Reasons	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	Lower Price	22	34	32	3	91
		(18.3)	(28.3)	(26.7)	(2.5)	(75.8)
	Better Quality of Commodities	5	6	7	-	18
		(4.2)	(5.0)	(5.8)		(15.0)
	Availability of Goods	3	2	4	2	11
(2.5)		(1.7)	(3.3)	(1.7)	(9.2)	
Total	30	42	43	5	120	
	(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)	

Table VI deals with the caste-wise distribution of the sample households as per the reasons to purchase from FPSs. From the Table, it can be said that the main reasons to purchase from FPSs are split into three –lower price, better quality of commodities and availability of goods. An overwhelming majority of the sample households i.e. 75.8 per cent stated that lower price is one the causes to have the purchases from FPSs and 15 per cent of households stated quality of commodities and 9.2 per cent of households stated the availability of goods are the causes to purchase the items from FPSs.

The caste-wise analysis shows that a majority of the sample households belong to the ST i.e. 28.3 per cent, 26.7 per cent of households from BC, 18.3 per cent of households from SC and 2.5 per cent of households from OC preferred to purchase from FPSs due to lower price and the remaining households stated better quality of commodities and availability of goods are the reasons to have the items from FPSs. By and large, from the above analysis, it can be surmised that a majority of the sample households expressed that the lower price is one of the reasons to have the purchases from FPSs. Among the SC, ST, BC and OC sample households, a majority of the BC households are willing to have the commodities from FPSs due to lower price. Therefore, it can be said that among the reasons, lower price is one of the most important causative factors to have the purchases from the FPSs.

TABLE VII CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS AS PER THE REASONS FOR NON-AVAILABILITY OF FOOD GRAINS

Mandal	Reasons	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	Not Applicable	5	10	7	1	23
		(4.2)	(8.3)	(5.8)	(0.8)	(19.2)
	Irregular Supply From Govt	7	15	13	2	37
		(5.8)	(12.5)	(10.8)	(1.7)	(30.8)
	Black Marketing By Dealers	17	11	22	1	51
		(14.2)	(9.2)	(18.3)	(0.8)	(42.5)
Lack of Govt. Inspection	1	6	1	1	9	
	(0.8)	(5.0)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(7.5)	
Total	30	42	43	5	120	
	(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)	

Table VII is a corollary to the Table VI. Out of 120 sample households, 42.5 per cent of households expressed that the reason for non-availability of ration is because of black marketing by dealers, 30.8 per cent of households stated that irregular supply from government and only 7.5 per cent of households expressed that lack of govt. inspection are the reasons for the non-availability of ration. The caste-wise analysis reveals the fact that a relative majority of the sample households belonging to the BC with 18.3 per cent, 14.2 per cent of SC households, 9.2 per cent of ST households stated that the reason for non-availability of ration is owing to the black marketing by dealers and the remaining households were of the view that non-availability of ration is due to irregular supply from the govt. and lack of govt. inspection. Thus, from the above analysis, it can be observed that there are many reasons for the non-availability of ration and among them black marketing by dealers, irregular supply from the govt. and lack of govt. inspection are the important reasons. Therefore, in this regard, one can say that if these were eliminated, the problem of non-availability will be ruled out.

TABLE VIII CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS BY THE DISTANCE

Mandal	Distance	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	< 0.5 km	23	34	29	3	89
		(19.2)	(28.3)	(24.2)	(2.5)	(74.2)
	1.0 km	7	8	14	2	31
		(5.8)	(6.7)	(11.7)	(1.7)	(25.8)
	Total	30	42	43	5	120
		(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)

Table VIII deals with the caste-wise distribution of the sample respondents by the distance. It is important factor in the proper functioning of PDS. While looking at the Table, it can be said that a majority of the sample households i.e. 74.2 per cent stated that the distance from their residence to

FPSs is below 0.5 km. Out of total sample households, 25.8 per cent of households stated that the distance is 0.5-1 km from their residence. While looking at the caste-wise particulars, 28.3 per cent of ST households, 24.2 per cent of BC households, 19.2 per cent of SC households and only 2.5 per cent of OC households expressed that the distance is 0.5 km from their residence. Therefore, from the above analysis the researcher had also observed that the average distance is reported to be about below 0.5 km from their residence.

TABLE IX CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS' OPINION ABOUT THE OPENING DAYS OF THE PDS OUTLET

Mandal	Opinion	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	Sufficient	15	9	20	3	47
		(12.5)	(7.5)	(16.7)	(2.5)	(39.2)
	Not sufficient	15	33	23	2	73
		(12.5)	(27.5)	(19.2)	(1.7)	(60.8)
	Total	30	42	43	5	120
		(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)

Table IX deals with the caste-wise distribution of the sample households' opinion about the adequacy of the opening days of the PDS outlet. From the Table, it can be said that a majority of the sample households stated that the opening days of FPSs are not sufficient. Of the total sample households, a majority of the sample households i.e. 60.8 per cent stated that the opening days of FPSs are not sufficient and the remaining 39.2 per cent of households stated that the opening days of FPSs are sufficient. 27.5 per cent of ST households, 19.2 per cent of BC households, 12.5 per cent of SC households and 1.7 per cent of OC households elicited that the opening days of FPSs are not sufficient. By and large, from the preceding analysis, irrespective of the caste-wise composition, it can be said that a majority of the sample households expressed that the opening days of FPSs are not sufficient in the study area.

TABLE X CASTE-WISE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS' OPINION ABOUT THE FUNCTIONING OF THE FPSs

Mandal	Opinion	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	Satisfied	12	8	12	-	32
		(10.0)	(6.7)	(10.0)		(26.7)
	Dissatisfied	18	34	31	5	88
		(15.0)	(28.3)	(25.8)	(4.2)	(73.3)
	Total	30	42	43	5	120
		(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)

Table X deals with the caste-wise sample households' opinion about the functioning of the FPSs. From the Table, it can be said that an overwhelming majority of the sample households in the study area as a whole opined that the

functioning of FPSs is not satisfactory. Of the total sample households, 73.3 per cent expressed that they are dissatisfied with the functioning of FPSs. Among the households those who had stated dissatisfied with the functioning of FPSs, a majority of the sample households are from ST i.e. 28.3 per cent followed by BC, SC and OC households with 25.8 per cent, 15 per cent and 4.2 per cent respectively. In this regard, during the field work, it had also been observed that owing to the limitations beset with the functioning of FPSs, almost all the sample households lamented that the functioning of FPSs is not satisfactory.

TABLE XI CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS AS PER THE OPINION ABOUT THE RATING OF THE OVERALL FUNCTIONING OF PDS TODAY WITH THAT OF 5 YEARS AGO

Mandal	Opinion	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	Same	21	16	30	3	70
		(17.5)	(13.3)	(25.0)	(2.5)	(58.3)
	Worse	9	26	13	2	50
		(7.5)	(21.7)	(10.8)	(1.7)	(41.7)
	Total	30	42	43	5	120
		(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)

Table XI deals with the caste-wise distribution of the sample households as per the opinion about the rating of the overall functioning of PDS today with that of 5 years ago. From the Table, it can be said that a majority of the sample households in the study area as a whole expressed that the rate of overall functioning of PDS is the same as in the case of earlier period. 25 per cent of households from BC, 17.5 per cent of households from SC, 13.3 per cent of households from ST and only 2.5 per cent of households from OC stated that the rate of overall functioning of PDS is the same and the remaining 41.7 per cent of households stated that the rate of overall functioning of PDS is worse. Thus, from the above analysis, it can be inferred that most of the households opined that the overall functioning of PDS has not made any commendable progress for the promotion of the welfare of the subjects when compared with its functioning of 5 years ago.

Table XII deals with the caste-wise distribution of the sample households as per the opinion about the quantum of quantity of grains in the present compared with the past. While looking at the Table, it can be said that an overwhelming majority of the sample households stated that the quantum of quantity of grains supplied is worse. 69.2 per cent of the sample households opined that the quantum of quantity of grains is worse. Further, while looking at the caste-wise particulars, 25 per cent of ST households, 21.7 per cent of BC households, 20 per cent of SC households and 2.5 per cent of OC households stated that the quantum of quantity of grains is worse and the remaining 30.8 per cent of households stated that the quantum of quantity of grains is the same.

TABLE XII CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS AS PER THE OPINION ABOUT THE QUANTUM OF THE QUANTITY OF GRAINS FROM PDS

Mandal	Quantum of Grains	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	Same	6	12	17	2	37
		(5.0)	(10.0)	(14.2)	(1.7)	(30.8)
	Worse	24	30	26	3	83
		(20.0)	(25.0)	(21.7)	(2.5)	(69.2)
	Total	30	42	43	5	120
		(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)

From the above analysis, it can be said that an overwhelming majority of the sample households opined that the quantum of quantity of grains is worse. Therefore, there is a need to increase the quantity of grains supplied from PDS.

TABLE XIII CASTE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE HOUSEHOLDS AS PER THE OPINION ABOUT THE RATING OF THE QUALITY OF GRAINS FROM PDS

Mandal	Quality of Grains	Caste				Total
		SC	ST	BC	OC	
Tadvai	Better		2	2	-	4
			(1.7)	(1.7)		(3.3)
	Same	10	16	19	2	47
		(8.3)	(13.3)	(15.8)	(1.7)	(39.2)
	Worse	20	24	22	3	69
		(16.7)	(20.0)	(18.3)	(2.5)	(57.5)
Total	30	42	43	5	120	
	(25.0)	(35.0)	(35.8)	(4.2)	(100.0)	

Table XIII deals with the caste-wise distribution of the sample households as per the nature of quality of grains. While looking at the Table, it can be said that a majority of the sample households stated that the nature of quality of grains is worse. 57.5 per cent of the sample households opined that the nature of quality of grains is worse. Further, while looking at the caste-wise particulars, 20 per cent of ST households, 18.3 per cent of BC households, 16.7 per cent of SC households and 2.5 per cent of OC households stated that the rating of quality of grains is worse and the remaining 39.2 per cent of households were of the view that the rating of quality of grains is the same and only 3.3 per cent of households opined that the rating of quality of grains is better.

By and large, from the above analysis, it can be said that an overwhelming majority of the sample households were of the view that the rating of quality of grains from PDS is worse. Therefore, there is a need to improve the quality of grains supplied from PDS.

V. CONCLUSION

By and large, from the analysis, it had also been observed that owing to the limitations beset with the functioning of FPSs, almost all the sample households expressed their dissatisfaction in respect of the functioning of FPSs. Thus, it can be stated that most of the households opined that the overall functioning of PDS has not made any commendable progress for the promotion of the welfare of the subjects as and when compared with its performance now with that of 5 years ago. Further, it can be said that an overwhelming majority of the sample households opined that the quantum of quantity of grains is not adequate. Therefore, there is a need to increase the quantity of grains supplied from PDS. Further, it can be said that an overwhelming majority of the sample households were of the view that the rate of quality of grains from PDS is worse. Therefore, there is a need to improve the quality of grains supplied from PDS. Therefore, it can be said that the sample respondents offered many suggestions for a better functioning of the system. The suggestions that they offered comprise of an improvement in the quality of goods supplied through FPSs, an increase in the quantity of goods, regular supply from govt., and preventing black marketing by dealers and elimination of bogus cards.

NOTES

1. It is the determined claim to the perceived right to employment by millions of poor men and (especially) women, if necessary by marching, picketing and rioting, which is considered as an important factor explaining public action during the drought of the 1970s in Maharashtra. The Rs. 2 kg rice scheme of

Andhra Pradesh successes partially because the poor considered that it is a right bestowed on them by Anna, the elder brother.

2. Between 1991 and 1994, the FPS price of Wheat has nearly doubled.
3. The new index of food grains prices (with base 1981-82=100) which stood at 118 in 1982-83 rose to 1997-98 and further to 410 in December, 1998.
4. The PDS has been one of the most important elements in India's safety net system for almost 50 years. This is quite clear from the fact that it handles about 15 per cent of the total availability of Rice and Wheat. The PDS costs about 0.5 per cent of GDP and 6 per cent of the Central Government's revenue.

REFERENCES

- [1] Council for Development Studies. (1975). *Poverty, Unemployment and Development*, United Nations, New York.
- [2] Sib Ranjan Misra. (2004). Public Distribution System in India: Some Critical Issues, in Amalesh Banerjee (Ed.), *Food Security and Public Distribution System Today*, Kanishka Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi.
- [3] Amrmani, P. et al., (2011). *Role of Law in Food Security Issues in India*, Paper Presented at National Seminar on *Food security Issues – Role and Challenges of Agri-input sector*, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
- [4] George, P.S (1999), Some Reflections on Food Security in India, *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 54(4), 465-89.
- [5] Madhura Swaminathan. (1996). Structural Adjustment, Food Security and System of Public Distribution of Food, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 31(26), 1665-1672.
- [6] Mooij, E Jos. (1994). Public Distribution System as a Safety Net: Who is Saved? *Economic and Political Weekly*, 29(3), 119-126.
- [7] Suryanarayana, M. H. (1997). PDS Reform and Scope for Commodity Based Targeting, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 30(13), 687-695.