



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
LT. GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

Puducherry, dt; 28/07/2017

P R E S S R E L E A S E

News item has been published recently regarding implementation of "Free Rice Scheme" by Government of Puducherry. In this regard it is clarified that Hon'ble Lt. Governor accorded ex-post facto expenditure sanction to a tune of ₹. 20.30 crore, towards distribution of 20 Kg free rice to all ration card holders in the U.T. of Puducherry for the month of April, 2017. While approving the expenditure, Hon'ble Lt. Governor had made the following observations:-

- (i) Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs should issue formal Government order for distribution of Green Ration Card (Honorary Family Card) as decided by the Council of Ministers, to those who voluntarily give up their entitlements under Public Distribution System (PDS).
- (ii) Central Government is releasing every month foodgrain cash subsidy at the rate of ₹. 125/- per person to 6,00,000 beneficiaries in the U.T. of Puducherry. Central Government has directed the U.T. administration to frame suitable rules to regulate this scheme. Civil Supplies Department must finalise the rules early.
- (iii) The U.T. government should consider to exclude Income-tax assesses, Senior Central/State Government Officials holding Group -'A' & 'B' posts and dealers registered under GST with high turnover from 20 Kg free rice scheme of the Union Territory. The amount saved can be used to carry out other welfare schemes of the Government.
- (iv) Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs shall put in place a fool-proof monitoring and supervision system to avoid pilferage of rice.

The department was advised to carry out the above measures well before the next sanction.

Agreed
28.7.17