

# For a stronger PDS

The findings of the 66th National Sample Survey on “Public distribution system and other sources of household consumption” establish the need to strengthen the PDS across the country.

At a time when there is a rising clamour from some sections of the government to replace the PDS with a direct cash transfer system, the important role the PDS plays in society, especially for those on the margins, is highlighted amply by the survey.

A comparison of some of the findings of the current survey (2009-10) with those of the 61st NSS (2004-05) brought out the following facts:

- The contribution of PDS purchases in total food consumption rose considerably in both urban and rural areas.
- The incidence of purchases by households was also up in both urban and rural areas.
- The pattern of purchase from the PDS based on monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) shows that the consumption of PDS commodities (except kerosene purchases made in rural areas, which

were more or less equal among the lowest to the highest spenders) was the highest among the bottom expenditure class of the population and fell gradually with the rise in expenditure level.

- In rural areas, the share of home produce in total consumption of cereals, pulses and milk has dropped quite significantly.
- Across States, the sharp difference in PDS and

non-PDS prices played a significant role in people opting to buy from fair price shops. The survey surmises that the extent of the spread of the PDS and differences in the quality of PDS supplies could be the reason for the variation across States.

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation



## Households using PDS (in %)

**High purchasers:** Tamil Nadu (rural: 91, urban: 67), Andhra Pradesh (rural: 84, urban: 43), Karnataka (rural: 75, urban: 25), Chhattisgarh (rural: 67, urban: 35), Kerala (rural: 51-54, urban: 43), Odisha (rural: 51-54), and Maharashtra (rural: 47).

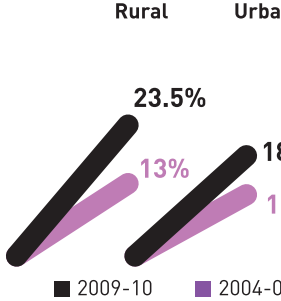
**Low purchasers** (where rice is the main cereal item): Bihar (rural: 12, urban: 4), West Bengal (rural: 26, urban: 7), and Jharkhand (rural: 26, urban: 9).

## PDS in total consumption (in %)

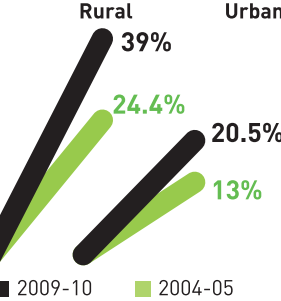
**High:** Tamil Nadu (rural: 53, urban: 41), Karnataka (rural: 45, urban: 18), Chhattisgarh (rural: 41, urban: 26), Maharashtra (rural: 34, urban: 7.5), Andhra Pradesh (rural: 33, urban: 21), and Kerala (rural: 28, urban: 24).

**Low:** (where rice is the main cereal item): Bihar (rural: 5, urban: 2), West Bengal (rural: 6, urban: 3), Assam (rural: 11, urban: 5), and Jharkhand (rural: 14, urban: 7).

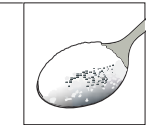
## Per capita consumption



## Households using PDS



## SUGAR



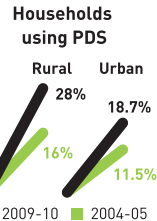
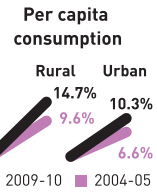
## Households using PDS (in %)

Tamil Nadu (rural: 86, urban: 78), Andhra Pradesh (rural: 57, urban: 32), Chhattisgarh (rural: 54, urban: 31), Assam (rural: 53, urban: 27) and rural Karnataka (47).

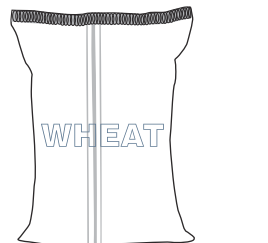
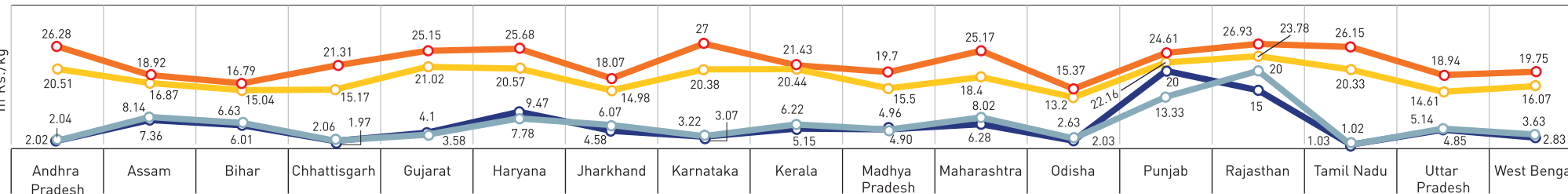
## PDS in total consumption (in %)

**High purchasers:** Tamil Nadu (rural: 73, urban: 63), Assam (rural: 53, urban: 31), Chhattisgarh (rural: 29, urban: 11), and Andhra Pradesh (rural: 24.5, urban: 12).

**Low purchasers:** Rural and urban areas of Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan, and urban areas of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal.



## Price of rice (rural and urban) from PDS and non-PDS sources



## Households using PDS (in %)

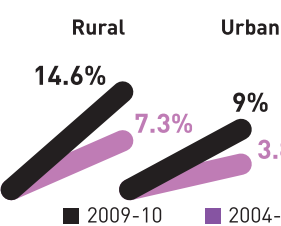
**Rural:** Karnataka (69), Tamil Nadu (57), Madhya Pradesh (46), Maharashtra (44) and Gujarat (35).

**Urban:** Tamil Nadu (51), Kerala (29), Chhattisgarh (25), Madhya Pradesh (24) and Karnataka (23), Rajasthan (12), Punjab (10), Haryana (9) and Bihar (5).

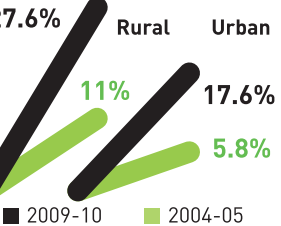
## PDS in total consumption (in %)

Maharashtra (rural: 33, urban: 9), Madhya Pradesh (rural: 22, urban: 13). In all the other States it was below the all-India average of 14.6% for the rural sector and 9% for the urban sector. It was noticeably low in Bihar (rural: 5, urban: 2), rural Uttar Pradesh (7), urban Gujarat (5), and urban Rajasthan (6).

## Per capita consumption



## Households using PDS



## KEROSENE



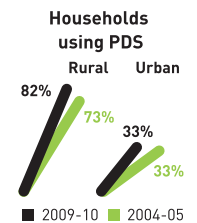
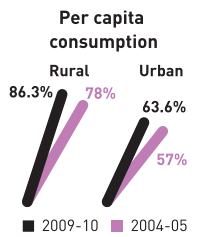
## Purchase pattern

In the rural sector, the contribution of PDS purchases to total consumption was 80% or more in all but two major States—Jharkhand and

Assam. In the urban sector, it varied much more: from 23.5% in Punjab to 90% in Kerala.

## Consumption

Top users in urban areas were West Bengal (61.5% households), Kerala (59%), Bihar (53%) and Uttar Pradesh (49%). In all major States except Punjab and Haryana, the proportion of households reporting consumption from PDS purchase ranged from 72% to 94% in the rural sector and from 18% to 62% in the urban sector.



## Price of wheat (rural and urban) from PDS and non-PDS sources

