

Temporary Ration Cards: Disha Foundation

Using State Government Resolution 1000/ GR 399/ 2000/ NP28 issued on 9 November 2000, which asserts the right of seasonal migrants to access and use a temporary ration card during their stay in a destination city, Disha Foundation has tried to address the food security needs of migrants within existing government programmes. Disha played a pivotal mediating role between the Department of Public Distribution System, state government authorities, including Additional Collector and officials, and the community.

Following consultations with the Department of Public Distribution System (and on-site visits by the authorities), an order was issued to provide seasonal migrants with temporary ration cards for four months (extendable to 12 months) against their existing ration cards. Once they depart from the destinations, migrants must have the cards cancelled by the department, so that they are once again eligible for subsidised food grain in their home villages. These temporary ration cards can be renewed on their return to Nashik.



For the provision of ration cards, certain administrative relaxations were made for migrants by the Department of Public Distribution System. For instance, the following were used in lieu of proof of identity and residence: a letter from the contractor stating where the migrant works; a photo of the migrant with family members and luggage at the *naka* (recruiting point and temporary residence); a recommendation from another registered migrant from the same village; a Disha Union card and letter of recommendation from Disha. Based on these documents, 55 new ration cards were issued to migrants of *Civil Naka* in Nashik.

As a result, migrant recipients have become eligible to purchase food grains at a concessional rate from ration shops close to their halt points, and are entitled to a monthly food grain quota. Based on this case, the Public Distribution System has issued 1,200 temporary ration cards to migrant nomadic tribes in Nashik, Maharashtra.

Source: Disha Foundation (www.dishafoundation.wordpress.com)
Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, UNESCO, 2013