

AIDWA flays Delhi govt suggestion to dismantle PDS

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NEW DELHI, 11 AUG: The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) along with a couple of non-governmental organizations - Satark Nagrik Sangathan; National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) - lashed out at Delhi government for its suggestion to dismantle Public Distribution System (PDS) with direct cash subsidies - a process under which eligible candidates are supposed to get a fixed amount of cash in their bank accounts.

Ms Farooqui of AIDWA said the Rozi Roti Adhikar Abhiyan, Delhi did a survey of 4,005 households covering slums, resettlement colonies in different parts of Delhi in which it was found that only five per cent of the total respondents were in favour of replacing PDS with cash transfers.

Adding her view Ms Anjali Bhardwaj of Satark Nagrik Sangathan said "Even the present welfare schemes such as old age, widow and disability pension are not working effectively and public is not benefited so how can the government expect that this scheme will work." She added that cash transfer system also has its loopholes as the identification problem, no guarantee of food security, no protection from inflation and fluctuation of market price will still be there and also if in states like Orissa and Chattisgarh the PDS is working effectively.

In order to implement its plan, the Delhi government in partnership with Indian Development Foundation had conducted a pilot study with at least 100 families in Raghubir Nagar to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of such programme.