**CIVIC Booklet on PDS released by Hon’ble Minister for Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Govt of Karnataka**

On Sat, 25th July 2015, **Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao, Food & Civil Supplies Minister**, released an information booklet on the PDS prepared by CIVIC and also listened to a presentation we made highlighting the problems in the PDS and suggesting possible solutions. The **Principal Secretary, Ms Kalpana and the Food Commissioner, Mr. Pattanshetty** were also present.

Mr. Pattanshetty praised the booklet as it had captured all relevant information for PDS users regarding the eligibility criteria, entitlements, vigilance committees, grievance redressal mechanisms, and the latest circulars. Several other civil society organisations were also present.

**Mr. Dinesh Gundu Roa, Hon’ble Minister for Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs,** said that from 1 August 2015, Sms Alerts will be sent 80 lakh ration card holders in the state. The SMS will contain information on the price, list of commodities will be messaged to the mobile phone. This process will help in curbing diversion of food grain especially in the Anna Bhagya Scheme.

CIVIC has been working with Food and Civil Supplies Department, Govt of Karnataka, on the various issues faced by the people in accessing the PDS. In November 2015, A Public Consultation on Public Distribution System in the year 2014. **Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao, Hon’ble Minister for Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs,** participated as Chief Guest and addressed the delegates from urban poor communities in Bangalore and other districts of Karnataka.

Later, CIVIC organised GRM Meetings in three wards in Bangalore and facilitate in resolving many issues faced by the people in these wards. More than 3000 rations cards were issued after GRM Meetings.