

PORTABILITY OF RATION CARDS 'ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD'

In a nutshell: Migrants and poor people who often relocate from one place to another are now able to receive their ration from Fair Price Shop (FPS), as a result of the One Nation One Ration Card programme of the Government of India.

Nodal Agency: Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India

Access to food throughout the year is a basic necessity of people, and food insecurity can have devastating impacts on human survival, health and ability to engage in productive work. The Government of India runs one of the largest food security programs in the world through a Public Distribution System (PDS) that guarantees access to food grain to over 80 crore people (almost two-third of the country's population as per Census 2011) as a legal right under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

Since ration cards were tagged to nearby Fair Price Shops (FPS), and card holders were allowed to take the subsidized food grains from only the tagged FPS, the delivery of the food subsidy throughout the year to the vulnerable migrant beneficiaries remained a major challenge. As many ration card holders often moved from one place to another in search of better job opportunities, temporary employment, etc. they lost access to the food grains distributed through PDS.

It was difficult for the migrant beneficiaries to locate a nearby FPS and check their Aadhar seeding status. Beneficiaries also faced issues relating to lack of transparency about their transaction history and were often unable to verify their entitlement details.

The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) facility in the PDS, which is a part of the Prime Minister's technology-driven system reforms under the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' empowers all beneficiaries under the NFSA to seamlessly obtain their food grains from any FPS of their choice in the country by using the same ration card with biometric authentication through electronic point of sale (e-PoS) device. In this scheme, migrant NFSA beneficiaries may walk into the nearby e-PoS enabled FPS anywhere in India and simply quote existing ration card or Aadhaar number for availing highly subsidized/free of cost food grain entitlements after biometric authentication.

Implementation of micro level data-driven technological intervention in the form of ONORC system ensures availability of ration to beneficiaries under the NFSA and other welfare schemes, especially to the migrant workers and their families, at any FPS across the country.

Mera Ration App

As mobile phones and internet access became more widely available in India's remote areas, the Mera Ration App was developed to assist the country's ONORC system.

Features of Mera Ration App:

- The app facilitates access to numerous ONORC related services for NFSA beneficiaries, including migrant workers, FPS dealers, and other key stakeholders.
- The FPS are geo-tagged, allowing beneficiaries to use the mobile app to find and locate the nearest FPS.
- The application is also linked to the Integrated Management of PDS (IMPDS) portal, allowing beneficiaries to view information such as food grain entitlement, transaction history etc.
- The app facilitates to know the status of Aadhar seeding in ration card which makes it a single window information system for the beneficiaries.
- Mera Ration app provides services in 12 regional languages to serve a broad number of recipients in their own language.
- Beneficiaries and FPS dealers can also submit recommendations or feedback using the application. The real time feedback system of the application nudges the FPS dealers to improve their service quality to the satisfaction of poor and vulnerable beneficiaries.

Impact of the scheme

- Facility to choose the FPS as per convenience - This technology-driven reform enables the migrant beneficiaries to get their entitled quota of food grains from any e-PoS enabled FPS of their choice anywhere in the country.
- Transparency - Beneficiaries can now obtain information such as transaction history and food grain entitlement by entering their ration card details on the application.
- Seamless delivery of food grains - At present a total of 34 States and UTs have been seamlessly integrated under a single national portability cluster, covering nearly 75 crore beneficiaries (almost 94.3% NFSA population). Around 2.2 crore monthly portability transactions (including inter-State and intra-State transactions), and 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)' transactions are being consistently recorded under ONORC plan.
- Ensuring food security - The facility proved to be a lifesaver for millions of migrant NFSA beneficiaries who were either working, living or got stranded in their location of work during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Empowering the end beneficiary - Besides supporting migrant beneficiaries, ONORC plan has also served as a game changer by empowering poor and vulnerable beneficiaries with the option to choose any other FPS of their choice. The power to

choose any FPS proves extremely helpful as the beneficiaries do not have to tolerate the FPS with bad service, irregularities in providing right quantity, erratic working timings, etc. This infuses a sense of healthy competition among FPS dealers and thereby nudging them to improve service quality to the satisfaction of poor and vulnerable beneficiaries.

Shavan Bhai
Home State- Karnataka
Ration Drawing State- Telangana

Prior to introduction of One Nation One Ration card I got ration only from Karnataka. Now I can go to any shop in Telangana and get my PDS ration without any difficulty

Ration Card Number: ALUR14134279

Dayanand
Home State- Maharashtra
Ration Drawing State- Telangana

Without this facility our families would be struggling with hunger.. the facility is a blessing.. I and number of people from my place take advantage of it...

Ration Card No. 272000348494

Testimonies from beneficiaries of ONORC