



One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC) is an endeavour of the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, to ensure seamless delivery of food-security entitlements to all the beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), anywhere in the country, through nationwide portability of ration cards in association with State/UT Governments. This is a part of the PM's Technology Driven System Reforms under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The system aims to empower numerous (potential) NFSA beneficiaries including migrant labourers, daily-wagers, urban poor like rag-pickers, street-dwellers, temporary workers in organised and un-organised sectors, domestic workers, etc. who frequently change their place of dwelling in search of better opportunities, across the country. It overcomes the constraints of traditional Public Distribution System (PDS) where they lose out on their subsidised food-grains due to migration, as their ration card is tagged to a nearby Fair Price Shop (FPS) in their native place.

This IT-driven system provides option to all beneficiaries to lift their entitled quota of foodgrains from any FPS of their choice in the





upon the strong pillars of automation of PDS operations in States/UTs and ready online availability/ access of PDS data through their respective and central servers.

For an effective and structured implementation of this initiative, the Department launched a Central Sector Scheme, namely – Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) w.e.f. April 2018 with national portability of ration cards as main objective. In June, 2019 the national portability of ration cards was named, “One Nation One Ration Card Plan”. Technical implementation and development of requisite software applications was done with the support of National Informatics Centre.

country by using the same ration card after undergoing biometric/ Aadhaar authentication on an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device at the FPS. The enablers of this initiative are installation of ePoS devices at FPSs and Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries with their ration cards database which can be accessed by FPS dealers using ePoS devices anywhere in the country either through ration card number or Aadhaar number of beneficiaries.

The initiative was conceptualised in furtherance of PDS reforms under which the Department, in association with all States/UTs, had achieved complete digitisation of ration cards/beneficiaries' data in the country, significant Aadhaar seeding and a fast pace of ePoS installation at FPSs. There was computerisation of end-to-end PDS supply chain operations in many States/UTs and availability of web-based applications and digital data/ information across the gamut of PDS operations on States/UTs and Central portals/dashboards. Thus, implementation of this technology-driven system to enable seamless access to Public Distribution System from any FPS in the country was predicated





authorities. This facilitates in having a list of eligible beneficiaries for portability transactions without duplicity in distribution or circumvention of someone else's entitlements through portability facility.

The pilot was launched in August 2019 in the form of inter-State portability in two-clusters of two- adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana and Gujarat & Maharashtra. In October, 2019 it was expanded to two more clusters of two- adjoining States of Karnataka & Kerala and Haryana & Rajasthan. Subsequently, in January 2020, the States of Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura were added to the list and the national portability system was seamlessly enabled in a "single integrated cluster" of 12 States under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan.

Subsequently, 16 more States/UTs (namely - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Arunachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) have been added swiftly in batches of 2-5 States/UTs at a time with the national cluster and at present, the One Nation One Ration Card system is seamlessly enabled in 28 States/UTs from October 2020, covering a total of about 68.6 Crore beneficiaries (~85% of >80 Crore NFSA population) who can lift their food grains from any FPS of choice in these States/UTs. It is targeted to integrate remaining States/UTs, including 2 UTs under DBT Cash Transfers, by 31.03.2021.

Under this system, the food grains are issued as per the 'Scale' and 'Central Issue Prices' (CIP) prescribed under the NFSA and as per the commodity ratio/distribution pattern of the destination/sale State/UT. However, migrant beneficiaries in two DBT (Cash) implementing Union Territories of Chandigarh and Puducherry (from other parts of the country) shall be eligible for receiving equivalent Cash Subsidy (in place of foodgrains) directly into their bank accounts, in the same way as is being done in case of resident beneficiaries.

The States/UTs have been entrusted with wide-scale publicity and awareness generation of this initiative as the responsibility of identification of beneficiaries and foodgrain distribution through PDS rests with them. The Government of India is making concerted efforts for maximum outreach to target groups/ beneficiaries across the country and develop sufficient information, education and communication (IE&C) material for the use of States/UTs.

The Department has also requested all States/UTs to enable a new 14445 toll-free number under this initiative. It is developing a comprehensive mobile/web application for registration of migrants. Focused awareness generation is being carried out to promote the distribution of foodgrains through portability by State/UT authorities and local/filed level officers.

To strengthen the outreach for urban labourers, a separate registration facility is being mullied.



To enable seamless exchange of data and information of NFSA ration cards/beneficiaries, their entitlements, etc. across different States/UTs, the Department has set up a secure Central Repository of all ration cards/beneficiaries' data, which is being fed by all States/UTs with incremental data on a regular basis through secure application programming interface (API). The centralised system detects duplicity of beneficiaries across States/UTs and alerts the