BACKGROUNDERS
Press Information Bureau
Government of India

One Nation, One Ration Card

Food Security Without Boundaries

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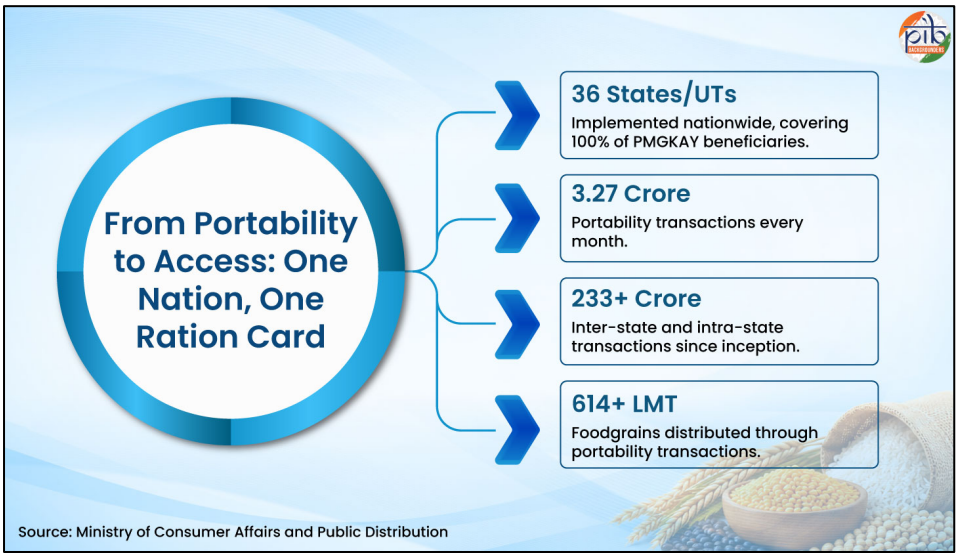
From Portability to Inclusion: Transforming Foodgrain Access

The **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** scheme was launched in 2019 by the Department of Food & Public Distribution. It is a major reform of the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**, enabling nationwide portability of ration cards and beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). **NFSA establishes legal entitlements for subsidized food grains, while TPDS distributes these grains to eligible beneficiaries.** Under **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)** reforms, ONORC uses technology to enable beneficiaries to access their entitled foodgrains anywhere in the country. The initiative has strengthened social protection for migrant populations and advanced the vision of a more integrated, inclusive, and beneficiary-centric welfare delivery system.

- Enables access to foodgrain entitlements from any Fair Price Shop across the country without needing a new ration card. Makes foodgrain entitlements portable across States.
- Supports migrant workers and families in accessing PDS benefits after changing residence.
- Ensures subsidized foodgrain access for beneficiaries wherever they reside.
- Strengthens PDS access for NFSA beneficiaries across the country.

Portability Milestones

ONORC has transformed PDS by making foodgrain access seamless, portable, and nationwide.



- ONORC has been implemented across all 36 States/UTs, covering 100% of PMGKAY beneficiaries.[1]

[1] https://sansad.in/getFile/annex/271/AU2600_K4DMRC.pdf?source=pqars

- ONORC facilitates approximately **3.27 crore portability transactions every month**.
- Since its inception, it has recorded over **233 crore inter-state and intra-state portability transactions**, distributing more than **614 LMT of foodgrains**.

Strengthening Transparency and Delivery Under PDS

The Government has complemented ration portability with digital authentication, data-driven targeting and technology-enabled distribution to improve transparency and last-mile delivery.

- **100% Digitisation:** Ration card and beneficiary databases are **100% digitised** across all States/UTs as **of October 2026**, covering around **78.65 crore** beneficiaries, and are accessible on public transparency portals of States/UTs. Out of **20.51 crore ration cards** in the Central System, **98.8% (20.27 crore)** have been **Aadhaar-seeded**. The total number of beneficiaries seeded with Aadhaar stands at **76.97 crore.** As on 30 September 2026, e-KYC has been done in respect of **71.52 crore** beneficiaries i.e., **91% of total beneficiaries.**
- **Transparent Grievance Redressal:** Transparency portals, online grievance systems and toll-free helplines operate across all States/UTs.
- **Computerised Supply Chain:** Online foodgrain allocation is implemented nationwide, while supply chains are computerised in **31 States/UTs**.
- **ePoS-enabled FPSs**: Out of a total of **5.51 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs)**, **99.8% (5.50 lakh)** are operational with **e-PoS devices**.
- **Rightful Targeting & De-duplication:** Advanced Aadhaar and PDS data analytics flagged 5.95 crore suspicious records, leading to the deletion of **2.58** crore duplicate or ineligible entries for Rightful Targeting V1. Rightful Targeting Version 3.63 flagged and 68 lakhs Deleted.
- **NIRMAL & SAKSHAM:** Under the **Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS (SARTHAK-PDS)** umbrella Scheme, these initiatives strengthen data architecture/analytics (NIRMAL) and real-time data integration, including Vehicle Location Tracking Systems (SAKSHAM), from procurement to distribution. **SARTHAK-PDS** provides financial support for intra-State movement, handling, and FPS dealer margins, while creating a unified, citizen-centric, and interoperable PDS architecture. The scheme aims to ensure last-mile delivery, minimise leakages, and strengthen food security under NFSA through 31 March 2031.
- **Scheme for Modernisation and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART-PDS):** Under the **SARTHAK-PDS, SMART-PDS** digitally integrates ration cards, distribution, supply chains and grievance redressal, while addressing State/UT-level technology gaps through an integrated central system**.**

Mera Ration App: Foodgrain Access at Your Fingertips

As part of technology-driven TPDS reforms under ONORC, the Department launched the **Mera Ration** mobile application. Available in **13 languages**, the app helps beneficiaries access important ration-related information and services.

Key features include:

- Check monthly foodgrain entitlement details

- View past transaction details
- Verify Aadhaar-seeding status
- Check eligibility for national portability
- Register voluntarily for ONORC
- Locate nearby Fair Price Shops (FPSs) using GPS
- Navigate to the nearest FPS through the map

Mera Ration app helps beneficiaries, particularly migrants, locate nearby FPSs and access their foodgrain entitlements in a new area.

Toward Inclusive and Dignified Food Security

ONORC has transformed the Public Distribution System by making foodgrain access portable, nationwide and technology-enabled. Its implementation across all 36 States/UTs, along with extensive portability transactions, reflects its growing role in strengthening food security. With digitalised beneficiary databases, ePoS-enabled Fair Price Shops, SARTHAK-PDS framework, and the Mera Ration app, the system is becoming more transparent, integrated, and beneficiary-centric.

Collectively, these reforms are strengthening last-mile delivery and ensuring that food security reaches beneficiaries wherever they live and work.

References

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My Scheme

https://www.myscheme.gov.in/schemes/onorc

PIB Backgrounders

https://www.pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?Id=150838&reg=3&lang=1
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