

6.3 L cardholders in Hyd don't buy ration from PDS

2.6 lakh families in Hyderabad district and 3.73 lakh families in parts of RR district which fall under city limits have not availed PDS in May

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BELIEVE it or not, even after implementation of National Food Security Act which raised the income eligibility for availing PDS benefits last year, and government's subsequent drive seeding Aadhaar details with PDS to weed out bogus cards, there are at present over 6.3 lakh cardholders in Hyderabad who do not buy ration from PDS. The number of cards issued stands at 13.21 lakh.

Now, one has to understand if these are bogus cards yet to be weeded out or are just below poverty line(BPL) families not interested in availing the benefits of government. According to latest figures, two months after the implementation of Electronic-Point of Sale(EPOS) system which uses biometric details of a PDS beneficiary before releasing ration at fair price shops across Hyderabad, a total of 2.6 lakh families in Hyderabad district and 3.73 lakh families in parts of Rangareddy district which fall under Greater

Hyderabad limits have not availed PDS benefits in May. The figures are quite similar for previous month too.

The savings for the month of April stood at 35.5 pc in Hyderabad and 37 pc in parts of Rangareddy district. Similarly, in May, the savings were 33.8 pc in Hyderabad and 29.4 pc in RR district.

These figures can be read as a saving of ₹28 cr and ₹20 cr for April and May respectively.

"The savings for any month so far was in single digits. EPOS enables constant monitoring of fair price shops since it uses biometric data for giving supplies to beneficiaries. Now diversion of PDS commodities is not possible," said chief rationing officer of Hyderabad B Bala Maya Devi.

District supplies officer, Rangareddy, M Gouri Shankar said: "We cannot say if all these are bogus cards too. A lot of people may be away on vacation. Some of them might not be interested in availing ration. We are in the constant process of weeding out ineligible cards," he said.



7.63 lakh

No of cards in Hyderabad

5.61 lakh

No of cards in RR district

NO CARDHOLDERS WHO DID NOT AVAIL PDS IN MAY

Hyderabad:	2,62,000
Rangareddy:	3,73,431

SAVINGS IN GREATER HYDERABAD

April: ₹17 cr (Hyd) and ₹11 cr (RR dist)

May: ₹14 cr (Hyd) and ₹8 cr (RR dist)

REQUIREMENT OF RICE

Hyderabad	17,000 metric tonnes
Rangareddy	11,000 metric tonnes

FAIR PRICE SHOPS IN GREATER HYDERABAD

Hyderabad (9 circles)	859
Rangareddy (3 circles)	686