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EPOS and E-PDS result in savings for FPS

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Thanks to the Electronic Point of Service (EPOS) and E-Public Distribution System (E-PDS) systems in place at all the 45 Fair Price Shops (FPS) outlets in Hyderabad district, the Chief Rationing Office (CRO) is saving about 15 per cent on all essential commodities it supplies per month.

The savings at all the 45 ration shops, which were just about five per cent till few years ago, rose to 15 per cent after October 2012, when the EPOS system was put into effect, and when names of cardholders were seeded with Aadhar cards, linking them to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Officials said that, based on the results seen in Hyderabad district, the system will be used across the State soon.

Take rice for example, of which 70,2,550 kg is supplied to all 45 FPS outlets in Hyderabad district every month, which amounts to 15,6,112 kg allotted to one shop on an average. "So, 15 per cent on rice given to each shop results in a saving of 341.833 kg per outlet, which is a very good result for us. In other districts of the State, there are no savings at all," explained a senior official from the CRO's office.

M. Padma, CRO, Hyderabad district, said that previously only the closing balance on stock was monitored, resulting in savings of about five per cent of essential commodities supplied to ration shops. Another official also informed that after the EPOS and E-PDS came into effect, FPS outlet owners were given Rs.7 as incentive whenever a card was swiped by cardholders. The official stated that about 2,000 transactions take place in a day at all the 45 FPS outlets in Hyderabad district. "Thanks to EPOS, we can know whether ration shops have opened or remain closed. Also prior to these changes made, outsiders or those without cards were also able to take the supplies, as there was no way to check things," she said.

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