**What is Ration Card**

The Indian ration card is mainly used for purchasing subsidized food and fuel (LPG and kerosene). It is an important subsistence tool for the poor, providing proof of identity and a connection with government database. Indian public distribution system (PDS) operates based on the ration card, including its function of identity, eligibility and entitlement.

**Category of Ration card:**

The ration card is of three category. They are,

* Extreme poverty level (Antyodaya)
* Below poverty level (BPL)
* Above poverty level (APL)

Family card in circulation in Tamilnadu:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.NO** | **Type of card** | **Commodities entitled** | **No. of cards** |
| 1 | Rice card | All commodities | 1,67,21,538 |
| 2 | Antoydaya Anna Yojanan Cards | All commodities | 18,62,615 |
| **Total rice card** | | | 1,85,84,153 |
| 3 | Sugar card | All commodities except rice | 10,76,552 |
| 4 | Police card | All commodities | 61,061 |
| 5 | No off commodity cards | No commodity | 60,827 |
| **TOTAL** | | | 1,97,82,593 |

**List of good supplied:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.NO** | **Name of commodity** | **Price per Kg** | **Scale of supply** |
| 1 | Rice | Free of cost | 4 kg per adult and 2 kg per child per month subjected to a minimum of 12 kd and maximum of 20 kgs per month per card except Nilgiris district(16-24 kgs per month per card . Under AAY 35 kgs per month) |
| 2 | Sugar | Rs.13.5 per kgs | 500 gms per head per month subjected to max of 2kgs per month. Additional 3 kgs are provided for sugar card option holder |
| 3 | Wheat | Rs. 7.5 per kg | 10 kgs per card per month in Chennai and District headquarters and 5 kgs per card per month in other places |
| 4 | Kerosene | Rs. 13.60 to Rs. 14.20 per liter | Ranges from 3-15 litres per card depends on the location |

**Special Public Distribution system:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.NO** | **Commodity** | **Scale of supply** | **Price** |
| 1 | Toor Dhall | 1 kg | 30 |
| 2 | Urid dhall | 1 kg | 20 |
| 3 | Fortfield palmolein oil | 1 litre | 25 |

**Problems in PDS system:**

In the PDS system there are various problems. Some of the major problems are

* People stand in a large queue to buy these goods for long time by skipping their work.
* As per the government allotment to various people in various category, the good does not reach every people due to many reason.
* People don’t have much awareness about the availability of goods.
* Many people don’t have awareness about what are the good they are eligible to buy and how much they can buy.
* Only poor people is ready to get these good and other people are not interested in these goods due to various reason