

## **PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (PDS)**

PDS means distribution of essential commodities to a large number of people through a network of FPS on a recurring basis. The commodities are as follows----

- Wheat
- Rice
- Sugar
- Kerosene

PDS evolved as a major instrument of the Government's economic policy for ensuring availability of food grains to the poor at affordable prices and also for enhancing food security for the poorest of the poor.

PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The Central Government has taken the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of food grains, etc. The responsibility for distributing the same to the consumers through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rests with the State Governments. The operational responsibilities including allocation within the State, identification of families below poverty line, issue of ration cards, supervision and monitoring the functioning of FPSs rest with the State Governments.

**Ration Card:** A Ration Card is a document issued under an order or authority of the State Government, as per the Public Distribution System, for the purchase of essential commodities from Fair Price Shops. State Governments issue distinctive Ration Cards to Above Poverty Line, Below Poverty Line and Antyodaya families and conduct periodical review and checking of Ration Cards.

**How to Obtain a Ration Card:** An Indian citizen may obtain the application form for making a new Consumer (Ration) Card from any Circle Office. He will require (a) a photograph of the head of the family attested by a gazetted officer/MLA/MP/Municipal Councilor, (b) proof of residence, and (c) the Surrender/Deletion Certificate of the previous Ration Card, if there was any. In case anyone is not able to provide proof of his/her residence, the Circle FSO conducts spot inquiries by recording the statements of two independent witnesses in the neighborhood. The standard prescribed time schedule for the preparation of a Ration Card is generally 15 days. However, the procedure and time limit may vary.

Currently Bihar Government distributes 4 types of Ration Cards:

**Red Card (for Below Poverty Line family)**

**Yellow Card (for Antyodaya Anna Yojana)**

**White Card (for Annapurna Yojana)**

**Green Card (for Above Poverty Line family)**