

97 per cent PDS cards linked to Aadhaar number

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ABOUT 97 percent of the beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the District have linked their Aadhaar card number with their ration cards as on February. The latest data released said that 1,75,919 beneficiaries were identified as poorest of the poor in the District and were included under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).

Of the total 30,60,920 beneficiaries in the District, 29,66,380 beneficiaries came forward to link their 12 digit Aadhaar card number with their PDS card, according to the data received from the Tamil Nadu Public Distribution System (TNPDS). Only 9,73,199 beneficiaries i.e, only 31 percent of the total beneficiaries linked their mobile number with the ration cards. Of the 9,94,002 cards in the District, as many as 2,74,516 cards were identified under Priority House Hold (PHH) category, said sources. Of the total 30,60,920 beneficiaries, 7,87,763 were included under PHH category of the PDS, according to the data, while as many as 1,75,919 were identified as poorest of the poor and were included under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). About a year ago, the State government, under the Tamil Nadu Food Security Rules, launched the process of replacing the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration cards with Priority House Hold (PHH) and Non-Priority House Hold (NPHH) cards.

Citing the GO, sources at PDS said that they had included people who were under BPL, differently abled, family headed by widow or single women and people receiving old age pension, under PHH category; while the households with at least a member as income tax payer, large scale farmers and households having any one of materials including AC or cars were categorised under NPHH.